

From: John Swanson <jswanson@swansonlawllc.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:59 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: RE: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Sir or Madam.

The letter that was submitted yesterday with the email below included a scrivener's error. In the second paragraph the town is incorrectly referred to as East "Hampton," when it properly should have referred to East "Haddam."

Is it possible for you to accept the attached with the scrivener's error corrected and publish this as BWRG LLC's comment rather than the document submitted yesterday with the error?

I apologize for the confusion and any additional burden.

Thank you.

John B. Swanson

Swanson Law, LLC

9 Austin Drive, Suite 212

Marlborough, CT 06447

Ph: 860.365-5354

Fax: 860.467-6003

Email: jswanson@swansonlawllc.com



BashanWatersRecre
ationalGroupLLC_Pu

From: Lee Gatts <lee@wsia.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 8:53 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Re: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear DEEP Staff,

Yesterday, I submitted comments on behalf of the Water Sports Industry Association related to the “Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study.” Within those comments, I reference documented research and technical reports on this discussion. I failed to include those studies as attachments within the same email yesterday, and I wish to submit those supplemental documents to you this morning for reference and consideration.

I apologize for failing to include these attachments within the initial email yesterday, as referenced in the official comments submitted.

Sincerely,
--

Lee Gatts

Vice President, Government Affairs

Water Sports Industry Association

Cell: 931.267.0673

Lee@wsia.net | www.wsia.net



Indiana



Goudy wave



CottyFay_UofM_Tec

Impacts-on-sedimenenergy, full report.p hnical_Report.pdf

From: Chad Tokowicz <chad@mraa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:37 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Cc: Mike Sayre <sayre@mraa.com>
Subject: Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study
Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas and our Connecticut based members, I am emailing today to submit formal comment for the Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study. Please find them attached. The MRAA greatly appreciates DEEP's focus on this matter and hope that our comment provides guidance as you begin this work.

I ask that you please respond to this email and confirm receipt of our comment.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or should there be an opportunity to provide further input as a stakeholder.

Sincerely,



Chad Tokowicz
Government Relations Manager
MARINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS

o [763-333-2416](tel:763-333-2416)
e chad@mraa.com



CT DEEP Wake Surf
Study - MRAA Comr

From: Connecticut Boating Certificates <glenn.dean@connecticutboatingcertificates.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 7:53 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Cc: Dupuis, Mia <Mia.Dupuis@ct.gov>; Flynn, Gwendolynn <Gwendolynn.Flynn@ct.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Connecticut Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study - Opportunity to Comment

For what it's worth, if the state is going to allow wake surfing for a number of valid reasons, implementing a spacing requirement could go a long way. A simple rule such as maintaining a specific distance from shorelines, docks, swim floats, piers, and anchored or moored vessels seems logical and easy to enforce. It is a relatively straightforward implementation and would demonstrate the state's proactive effort in addressing many of the issues swirling around this topic. Wake surfing is done at an average speed of 10-15 mph so a larger spacing from shore may be a great starting point.

Of course to me, being a safety guy, my concern is those trying to wake surf behind a boat not designed for wake surfing. IE everyone gets to the stern and to one side so the boat throws a larger wake. That is dangerous. Also with no tow line, propeller strikes become a growing concern.

In any case, thanks for listening and I hope you're having a great day! Below are some Copilot search results from this morning I did after writing this email....

Vermont

Wake Sport Zones: Wake surfing is restricted to designated zones that are:

- At least 500 feet from shore
- At least 200 feet wide
- At least 20 feet deep
- 50 contiguous acres minimum

Home Lake Rule: Wake boats must remain on a designated lake during the boating season unless decontaminated by a certified provider.

Environmental Focus: Aims to reduce shoreline erosion and aquatic habitat disruption. [mncola.org]

Maine

Distance & Depth Requirements:

- Wake surfing must occur at least 300 feet from shore
- Minimum water depth of 15 feet

Education & Enforcement:

- Boat dealers must inform buyers about safety and education requirements.
- Repeat violations (3 in 5 years) can be elevated to a Class E crime.
- A state report on enforcement and impact is due by 2027. [mncola.org]

Michigan

Proposed Legislation (HB 5532):

Restricts wake boats to 500 feet from shore and 20 feet minimum depth

Based on a DNR study showing wake boats generate up to 17x more wave energy than similar boats

Concerns include sediment resuspension, algae blooms, and shoreline erosion

[michiganwa...liance.com]

Wisconsin

Local Ordinances:

Many towns have enacted their own rules due to lack of statewide regulation.

Common Restrictions:

No wake surfing within 200 feet of shore, docks, or moored vessels

Prohibition on wake sports in water bodies less than 400 feet wide

Controversy: Ongoing legal battles over local bans and environmental concerns [wpr.org]

New Hampshire

Legislation (HB 229 & HB 115):

Defines “wake boats” and requires them to be designed for wake surfing

Bans nighttime wake surfing

Requires life jackets for all wake surfers [nmma.org]

Oregon

Legislation (HB 2555, HB 2725, HB 2734):

Limits motorboat weight to under 4,000 lbs for wake sports certification

Proposes excise tax on wake boat sales

Calls for further study on environmental impacts [nmma.org]

Virginia

Smith Mountain Lake Rule:

Prohibits wake surfing within 200 feet of docks, piers, shorelines, or people in the water

Applies to lakes over 20,000 acres and 500 feet above sea level [nmma.org]



Captain Glenn Dean CRBP

State Certified Instructor

Connecticut Boating Certificates LLC

Cell 203-788-3438 Office 800-832-7191

www.connecticutboatingcertificates.com

From: Robert Keaney <Robert.Keaney.1239485946@p2a.co>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 2:57 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As a supporter of recreational boating in Connecticut, I appreciate DEEP's interest in towed water sports and recreational boating. I urge the Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study to emphasize responsible boating practices and education initiatives over punitive restrictions that could unfairly limit access to our waterways.

The study should thoroughly evaluate the economic impacts of any boating restrictions on lakeshore communities, dealers, retailers, and others dependent on Connecticut's vibrant outdoor economy, which contributes \$3.6 billion annually and sustains 13,000 jobs through sales, tourism, and related activities.

Finally, protect the rights of responsible, well-intentioned recreational boaters by relying on peer-reviewed science demonstrating minimal environmental effects from wake surfing at safe distances like 200 feet, while ensuring balanced policies that promote equitable use for all and reject flawed, biased reports.

I encourage DEEP to produce a balanced study that prioritizes responsible boating education, promotes our boating economy, and protects the rights of responsible boaters.

Thank you for considering these perspectives as you consider the future of recreational boating in Connecticut.

Sincerely,
ROBERT KEANEY
New Milford, CT

From: Erinn Keaney <Erinn.Keaney.1239448553@p2a.co>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 2:46 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

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I encourage DEEP to produce a balanced study that prioritizes responsible boating education, promotes our boating economy, and protects the rights of responsible boaters.

Thank you for considering these perspectives as you consider the future of recreational boating in Connecticut.

Sincerely,
Erinn Keaney
New Milford, CT

From: Travis Keaney <Travis.Keaney.1239433874@grsdelivery.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 2:41 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

As a supporter of recreational boating in Connecticut, I appreciate DEEP's interest in towed water sports and recreational boating. I urge the Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study to emphasize responsible boating practices and education initiatives over punitive restrictions that could unfairly limit access to our waterways.

The study should thoroughly evaluate the economic impacts of any boating restrictions on lakeshore communities, dealers, retailers, and others dependent on Connecticut's vibrant outdoor economy, which contributes \$3.6 billion annually and sustains 13,000 jobs through sales, tourism, and related activities.

Finally, protect the rights of responsible, well-intentioned recreational boaters by relying on peer-reviewed science demonstrating minimal environmental effects from wake surfing at safe distances like 200 feet, while ensuring balanced policies that promote equitable use for all and reject flawed, biased reports.

Nothing has brought my family and friends closer together than learning different types of towed watersports. We have been active in the tow boat industry for over 40 years and have always practiced safe boating and respect for other boaters and homeowners on Candlewood Lake. With the increase in popularity to these sports, the boats have evolved and I agree that the 200' distance would be a great balance for tow boats and other recreational boaters to co-exist on Connecticut waterways. I strongly believe that the operation of not only tow boats, but ALL boats, should be done by an experienced and licensed driver and not fault the type of boat for a drivers improper actions. Further education is needed for in-experienced drivers vs a restriction on the type of boat. Ferrari's dont leave the garage and break speed limits.

Guns don't get up out of the safe and kill people.

Dont restrict the boat for the drivers in-experience.

I encourage DEEP to produce a balanced study that prioritizes responsible boating education, promotes our boating economy, and protects the rights of responsible boaters.

Thank you for considering these perspectives as you consider the future of recreational boating in Connecticut.

Sincerely,
Travis Keaney
New Milford, CT

From: Christopher Perry <Christopher.Perry.1238195976@forgrassroots.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 10:00 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

As a supporter of recreational boating in Connecticut, I appreciate DEEP's interest in towed water sports and recreational boating. I urge the Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study to emphasize responsible boating practices and education initiatives over punitive restrictions that could unfairly limit access to our waterways.

The study should thoroughly evaluate the economic impacts of any boating restrictions on lakeshore communities, dealers, retailers, and others dependent on Connecticut's vibrant outdoor economy, which contributes \$3.6 billion annually and sustains 13,000 jobs through sales, tourism, and related activities.

Finally, protect the rights of responsible, well-intentioned recreational boaters by relying on peer-reviewed science demonstrating minimal environmental effects from wake surfing at safe distances like 200 feet, while ensuring balanced policies that promote equitable use for all and reject flawed, biased reports.

Boating offers families the opportunity to spend meaningful time together, building memories that last a lifetime. From celebrating the excitement of getting up on a wakeboard or wakesurfer for the first time to cheering each other on as new tricks are mastered, the experiences on the water bring families closer. I've had the joy of watching my daughter grow in confidence through her progression in these sports. These are more than just skills — they're life lessons and core memories that she's building through a sport that has brought our family years, and even generations, of fun.

I encourage DEEP to produce a balanced study that prioritizes responsible boating education, promotes our boating economy, and protects the rights of responsible boaters.

Thank you for considering these perspectives as you consider the future of recreational boating in Connecticut.

Sincerely,
Christopher Perry
Newtown, CT

From: John Tavano <jtavano@miamicorp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:52 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

John

New Hartford ,CT

tavano_50th@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

John Tavano

Vice President, Sales

The Miami Corporation

Direct: [860.601.0772](tel:860.601.0772)

Orders: [800.543.0448](tel:800.543.0448)

www.miamicorp.com

From: Asa Briggs <asa@itpmarketing.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:09 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP,

I have been a resident of Highland Lake for almost 10 years and watched as the homeowners of Lake Waramaug outlawed Wake Surfing. My family specifically selected Highland Lake due to its watersport culture. It has historically been known as a water skiing and wakeboarding lake. Now it has a robust wake surfing culture which brings many new residents and visitors who enjoy this and similar activities such as water skiing, wake boarding and jet skiing. In addition to enjoying water sports on our lake, we also participate in the Highland Lake Water Association and volunteer in clean ups around the lake.

I am concerned that wake surfing has become the target of so much concern within the boating community. I recognize it contributes to certain aspects of wave activity, water turbidity and safety on the water. However, this could and probably should be part of the larger consideration of all boating, and jet skiing on our waters. Perhaps the best way to address peoples concerns would be to implement good boating practices for wake surfing such as those published by Water Sports Industry Associates (WSIA): Wake surf 200ft offshore in water that is a minimum of 10ft deep.

If there is a recreational concern, perhaps DEEP or specific bodies of water can enact rules allowing wake surfing during certain hours, so that other recreational users can plan their activities around those times.

With regard to environmental concerns about water turbidity, I have read the Waramaug study which claims that wake surf boats in surf mode disrupt silt over 20ft below the surface. However, Highland Lake Water Association studies have confirmed that the water quality in 2025 was the best recorded while HLWA has performed studies. This result while wake surfing is at its most popular moment, without any additional regulation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Asa Briggs

718 W Wakefield Boulevard

Winsted, CT 06098

From: Hoffman, Lee D. <LHoffman@PULLCOM.COM>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:29 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Comments Related to Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.
Please see the attached comments. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Regards,
Lee

Lee D. Hoffman (He/Him/His)
Attorney

Pullman & Comley LLC
90 State House Square
Hartford, CT 06103-3702
T 860 424 4315 • M 860-306-9843 • F 860 424 4370
lhoffman@pullcom.com • www.pullcom.com



Exhibits to Public
Comments.pdf



Comments Related
to Wake Boat and V

From: jason torrance <jason.c.torrance@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:26 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Jason Torrance

From: Eric.Hansen@rabobank.com <Eric.Hansen@rabobank.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:27 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: ejhansen9@gmail.com

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

We own Candlewood lakefront property at 56 Candlewood Shore in New Milford, CT, just north of "The Narrows" section of the lake. I understand that Lake Warmaug has recently approved a wakesurf boat ban which goes into effect in 2026.

We consider that Candlewood Lake should consider a complete or partial ban of wakesurf boats. We have noted the following:

- We had to install whips and substantial bumpers on our dock to avoid further damage to our boat – our 21 foot boat fiberglass boat consistently knocked hard against the dock even with normal bumpers in place
- We connect our boat with both whips and docklines – the docklines have snapped 2x from repeated substantial waves from wakesurf boat waves
- The waves from wakesurf boats are large enough that we avoid kayaking except in the early morning when wakesurf boats aren't out – we consider it a safety issue
- The waves are large enough to push swimmers against the dock with force – this is also a safety issue
- We have noted movement of large rocks near our shoreline from wakesurf boat waves

Our home sits on a portion of the lake which is relatively narrow. Even if they're in the middle of the lake, wakesurf boats generate substantial waves which hit our shoreline hard. We've noted that other boats 100+feet from our dock do not generate waves that move the dock. I'm sure that you could test for this with video cameras and drones if you wanted to. We're happy to assist from our property if this would be useful to DEEP.

I've noted that the area where we reside is a narrow portion of the lake. DEEP could consider bans in certain narrow areas of the lake as well as a complete ban. We're all for freedom and everyone being able to pursue fun on the lake in their own way so long as it doesn't create safety issues or cause damage to the lake or other property.

Best regards,
Eric Hansen

Eric Hansen
Managing Director, Financial Advisory & Solutions

From: Lori Brown <lori.brown@ctlcv.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:34 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat/Wakesurf Study - CTLCV comments

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To: DEEP.Boating@ct.gov

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Re: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study.

The CT League of Conservation Voters appreciates DEEP's efforts to obtain input from both local and statewide experts to ensure its findings are based on facts.

Based on the evidence we have seen that demonstrates the impacts of wake boats on local waterbodies, we align our comments with those of Rivers Alliance of CT. Their recommendations for the scope of the study reflect many decades of experience and expertise on all water-related issues in Connecticut.

We believe the state should focus on achieving the highest level of protection for our state's waterbodies as the most precious public trust asset in Connecticut.

When all our environmental protections are under direct attack by the current federal government, it is imperative that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection do everything it can to reinforce strong local protections and not set standards that could undermine the establishment of protections all across Connecticut.

The rules must first protect our water for the innumerable eco-system benefits it provides to people, wildlife, health, and climate. Furthermore, a healthy economy depends upon a healthy environment, and no individual use of this resource should be allowed to cause damage or danger to our fisheries, wildlife, swimmers, paddlers, bystanders, and other motorboat users.

We urge DEEP to ensure the study relies on independent science and prioritizes protecting environmental quality and public safety. We support Rivers Alliance of CT's recommendation for statewide protective standards—such as a minimum 1000-foot setback from shore, 30-foot minimum depth, and an operational zone of at least 100 contiguous and regularly shaped acres, with the option for local communities to adopt stronger measures.

Thank you for considering our comments.

20 Church Street * Hartford, CT 06103
CTLCV.org * 860-236-5442

From: David Schwartzbaum <davidschwartzbaum@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:37 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Rena <schwa0887@gmail.com>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My wife and I live in Brookfield on Lake Lillinonah. We do not own any motorized watercrafts, but we frequently are on the lake using our kayaks, both traditional and pedal versions.

Over the past six years we have been in Brookfield, we have seen a noticeable increase in the number of wake boats on the lake, with dramatic increases especially during the past couple of years. During the same period, we have seen significant degradation of the shorelines on the lake, including erosion of the shorelines and damage to rock retaining walls. We believe the two are closely related. We saw the shoreline issues up close during the annual Friends of the Lake clean-up this summer, when traveling slowly along the shoreline to locate and remove debris revealed a great deal of erosion and damage.

Because of the increased number of wake boats, the drivers of which are often oblivious to other users of the lake, including kayakers such as ourselves, our ability to use and enjoy the natural beauty of the lake has diminished. It is difficult to enjoy a kayak ride on the lake when wake boats travel dangerously close by and create waves that push non-motorized boats off course and sometimes in unsafe directions.

We would encourage DEEP to adopt strict regulation of wakeboats to preserve the shorelines and the safety and enjoyment of the lake by other users. Regulation of wakeboats is necessary for both conservation and safety reasons.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important issues, and thank you for your consideration.

David and Rena Schwartzbaum
Brookfield

From: goncalvesmichael <goncalvesmichael@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:54 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboat ban

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I do not think the state of CT should ban wake boats or any other boat type. WSIA guideline of 200' from shore and 10' of depth are science based and peer reviewed. Neither the Wisconsin nor the Waramaug studies are. They are loaded and bias from their start. We own a wakeboat and operate it responsibly. We have an "oldman group" that goes out together regularly. Every activity has its fans and detractors. Personal watercraft, fisherman, wakesport enthusiasts, even "pontooners" can attract the ire of others. Watersports are the reason I bought a lakehouse at a recreational lake. They are the reason I bought a boat for the purpose. If wakesports were not allowed it would cost me tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Michael Goncalves
522 E Wakefield Blvd
Winsted CT

From: Paul Atkins <PAtkins@halmarinternational.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:55 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP personnel,

I am a homeowner on Lake Waramaug for approximately 15 years. Prior to that, my family has had property on the lake dating back to the early 1950's.

I grew up water-skiing on Lake Waramaug. I love the lake deeply.

My four children, other family and friends, etc. have all spent precious time boating at the lake. Wakesurfing in particular has been something that my family has come to love and enjoy (along with water skiing).

I have observed the ability for wakesurfing waves to be problematic, particularly when the sport first started getting popular. I had already instructed my family and friends to follow common sense when wakesurfing (deep water only, far from shore, waves pointing away from the shore). I have noticed that most people have been following the same guidelines more and more. This type of common sense approach to wakesurfing seems to be the way to handle the concerns regarding this sport.

Not only do I love the lake, but I am a registered Professional Engineer and have degrees in Civil/Environmental Engineering.

There is no need to ban wakesurfing.

This is a somewhat new sport and education and enforcement of common sense guidelines/rules should be the approach.

Connecticut needs common—and common-sense—standards for wakesurfing rather than individual, misguided town-by-town regulations. The state should act because towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts. We need DEEP to step in.

I personally bought a new boat this year to use for water skiing and wake surfing. It was very expensive. I am very upset that some local uninformed people have scared people with misinformation to vote down wakesurfing. We need this matter to be handled at a higher level by people that will use science and not scare tactics to address any concerns with wake surfing.

I implore DEEP to take this matter over.

Thank you,

Paul Atkins

159 West Shore Road

New Preston, CT 06777

From: Scott Stuart <Scott@sageviewcapital.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:32 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

In the interest of providing you accurate information with which to make your decision about the wake surfing ban on Lake Waramaug, we are forwarding 2 documents - a summary overview of the situation and a longer deck. We would ask that you both read through these carefully. As we said in our meeting, our study of the facts this summer has revealed two things:

First, there is no scientific data to justify a ban. In fact, all the true scientific facts show that regulatory guidelines, like those enacted in 10 states, solve any potential problem (see below). Even the study commissioned by the pro-ban people did NOT recommend a ban and said that the possible effects on the health of the lake were “preliminary in nature ... and warrants further study.” Secondly, the voter process in the 3 towns was deeply flawed. People were misled and the selectmen refused to offer an alternative to an outright ban-regulation. While we know it’s not DEEP’s job to police local elections, it is DEEP’s responsibility to disallow the ban if it is “arbitrary, unreasonable, unnecessarily restrictive, contrary to regulatory uniformity, and contrary to legislative policy.”

In the fullness of time, we’re confident that all the facts will come out. We sincerely hope that DEEP leads the charge on this important state-wide issue.

FWIW, we have never been prouder to be Connecticut residents than in the last 7 years of the Lamont administration. Time and again, this administration has studied facts and acted in accordance with the data- whether it was Covid response, vaccine recommendations, etc. We’re hoping that DEEP can act in a similar manner here.

A fulsome study of the facts and statewide regulation are the proper way to handle this issue.

Many thanks,

Scott and Lisa Stuart – Warren, CT



Summary Deck.pdf



cidf_mfwqe1952.pdf



LWF full deck.pdf

f

From: Jennifer Godward <jpgodward@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:57 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of Washington and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals (including town officials) have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats and our lakefront property, while providing our communities with considerable property tax revenue. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a full time resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together. A ban is an ugly thing; it says to others that a community can not find a way forward through compromise.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Godward

Washington,CT

jpgodward@gmail.com

From: Ivan Miller <millerivan@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:58 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

I want to commend DEEP for seeking public comment on this issue. It makes much more sense for the agency to study wake surfing and come up with reasonable regulations than to allow a special interest group to manipulate the issue.

I live in Cornwall Bridge, 10 minutes from Lake Waramaug. I am an avid swimmer, paddler and boater there. I have been enjoying that lake for decades with family and friends. This has included wake surfing. I was not eligible to vote in the recent "referendum" on wake producing boats (itself a misnomer) which seemed unfair. Nevertheless, I received multiple postcards from proponents of the ban and I drove past many signs some of which I would consider fear mongering. The issues were not presented fairly. There were a number of falsehoods and in particular false choices.

As a swimmer, I am more concerned about boats that move faster than 6-9mph which is the typical range used by wake surfers. In fact there are many boats on the lake that pose a greater danger to swimmers (e.g.; overloaded pontoon boats; tubing boats driving erratically; etc). These are not targeted by the group that spent what seemed like a small fortune on marketing for this issue. One of their focuses was swimming safety. To a swimmer like me, wake surf boats are among the safest motorized boats on the lake.

The wave produced by a most of the boats with wake "enhancing" equipment is often smaller than the wake produced by some of the larger motorboats of which there are many on Lake Waramaug. In fact, a non-wake surf boat with multiple passengers will produce a much larger wake than many of the wake surf boats. Combine that with greater speed and again, wake surf boats are comparatively safer.

Most wake enhancing equipment for wake surfing focuses the wave on one side. This is another way in which wake surf boats may produce less wake than non-wake surf boats which will produce the same wave to port and to starboard. Regulation could require that the enhanced side of the wake face away from the shoreline. In this way, the shoreline could be protected. Ironically, this would not apply to the boats that produce large wakes without enhancing equipment. These boats, which are not targeted will send their large wakes in both directions and are often driven closer to shore.

It is illogical and arbitrary to ban a boat with a wake shaper that changes the shape but not the net size of a wave or the force it produces. This has nothing to do with the impact of a wave on swimmers, other boats, docks or the shoreline. For that matter, DEEP regulations (and the boating course we all took) already hold the boater responsible for the effect of their wake.

I don't think it is fair that a lake with a history of motorboats and where many neighbors have invested in boats should suddenly take away the rights of boat owners. Many of my friends have grown up water skiing on Lake Waramaug and we all use the time together to deepen relationships with family and friends.

It is clearly possible and not really difficult to regulate the production of wakes on certain sections of the lake to achieve the spirit of what I believe many of my neighbors were seeking in the referendum without banning wake enhancing devices on Lake Waramaug.

Thank you again for soliciting comment and for studying this issue. I am hopeful that you will develop regulations that are not arbitrary and unfair, and that will be more effective for the good of all on Lake Waramaug.

Ivan Miller
186 Warren Hill Road
Cornwall Bridge CT 06754

From: Henry Baldwin <hdbaldwin8@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:59 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Henry

New Preston,CT

hdbaldwin8@gmail.com

From: Jonathan Tamburro <jonathantamburro88@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:04 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

I'm writing as a Connecticut resident and boat owner to express my strong support for continuing to allow wake surfing and wake boating on our state's waterways. These activities are not only safe when practiced responsibly — they are also an important source of recreation, family bonding, and local economic activity.

Wake surfing has become one of the most family-friendly water sports available today. Unlike traditional water skiing or wakeboarding, the speeds involved are relatively low (typically 10–12 mph), making it accessible to people of all ages. It's an activity that brings families and friends together outdoors — something we should be encouraging, not restricting.

I understand there are concerns about shoreline impact, but multiple independent studies have shown that wake boats operated in compliance with distance regulations do not cause significant shoreline erosion. When operated 100 feet or more from the shore, the residual wake energy dissipates safely and naturally — no more damaging than that from other common boating activities or passing vessels.

Moreover, wake sports contribute significantly to Connecticut's local economy — supporting marinas, boat dealerships, repair shops, gas docks, restaurants, and tourism. Many small businesses and jobs rely on these recreational boaters during the summer months.

I would respectfully urge the committee to focus on education and enforcement of distance and depth regulations, rather than outright restrictions or bans. Responsible operation and awareness campaigns can effectively protect the environment while preserving a beloved community pastime that brings families together and supports our economy.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work to balance recreation and environmental stewardship in our beautiful state.

Warm regards,
Jonathan Tamburro

From: tepa1953@aol.com <tepa1953@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:30 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and wake surf study

To whom it may concern;

As a member of the Lake Lillinonah community I would like to express my views on wake boats on the lake. My husband and I live here year round and our family enjoys kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming and floating in tubes on the lake. My husband is an avid fisherman and is out on his bass boat frequently. We also enjoy cruising on our pontoon boat as well as riding our jet ski. I have never come across a wake boater that was disrespectful to my space or made me feel unsafe in any way.

As far as some people being concerned with erosion, I do not feel there is a such an extreme amount of wake-boats on this lake that would increase natural erosion. The lake is pretty quiet during the week and even quiet on weekends off season. When I'm out during these times there are mostly kayakers and fisherman. I feel the increase in boating traffic on the 15 or so weekends of the season is not the main cause of erosion on this lake.

What concerns me more is the improper drainage on our road that during major storms caused water to come over the curbs and down the hills and into the lake This improper drainage has caused erosion down by the lakefront. We definitely could use more and/or bigger drains on the roads to help control this from happening in the future.

I also feel that homeowners on the lake and the surrounding community members who rent/ own boat slips or pay to belong to town ramps have a certain amount of respect for the lake and the people using it. Some solutions might be to limit the amount of people entering the public boat ramps with jet skis or wake boats on the weekends during the summer season. I did see a large amount of jet skis coming in on the weekends this season and they race along the lake and congregate by the shoreline making turns and donuts.

Rather than banning a specific type of boat, I believe our focus should be on better regulation, enforcement, and infrastructure improvements that address the real sources of erosion and safety concerns.

With thoughtful management and respect for one another on the water, I'm confident that all types of boaters—including those with wake boats—can continue to enjoy Lake Lillinonah responsibly and preserve its beauty for everyone.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Monti

Lake front property owner

From: iPutter <pswages@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:38 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joshua

East Haddam ,CT

pswages@gmail.com

From: noreen & charlie watson <crwatson@snet.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:23 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: WakeBoat and wake surf study

My family owns two cottages on Highland Lake and both my nephew and my brother own the boats .We water ski and we surf and tube a lot behind the boat. I understand some towns are banning wake surfing and I really believe that our state should come up with Statewide regulations to enable us to keep having fun on our waterways. Thank you.

Noreen Watson

Barkhamsted

06064

[860 605 0176](tel:8606050176)

From: Bryan & Grace Southergill <mail@southergill.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:56 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Deer DEEP Boating,

I own a home directly on Highland Lake in Winsted, Connecticut.

I whole-heartedly SUPPORT wake surfing and believe that it should be allowed to continue on Highland Lake and other lakes in CT.

This is a sport and past time that my whole family really enjoys.

It would be a real shame if the State passed laws/rules that took away this family fun.

I believe that the most sensible way forward is a streamlined statewide policy for Connecticut's waterways and a prohibition on municipal bans, so that there is a uniform approach that allows wake surfing to continue.

Connecticut needs common standards for wake surfing rather than individual, misguided town-by-town regulations. The state should act because towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts. It's why we need DEEP to step in.

Thanks,
Bryan

Grace Southergill
+1 860 238-4616

From: Bryan Southergill <bryan.southergill@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:01 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Deer DEEP Boating,

I own a family home directly on Highland Lake in Winsted, Connecticut.

I am in SUPPORT of wake surfing and believe that it should continue to be a sport that families can enjoy on Highland Lake and other lakes in CT.

This is a sport and pastime that brings together my whole family.

It would be terrible if the State passed laws/rules that took away this family fun.

A streamlined statewide policy for Connecticut's waterways and a prohibition on municipal bans is the best way forward, so that there is a uniform approach that allows wake surfing to continue.

Connecticut needs common standards for wake surfing rather than individual, misguided town-by-town regulations. The state should act because towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts. It's why we need DEEP to step in.

Thanks,
Bryan

Bryan T. Southergill
+1 860 379-1837

From: Eric Richard <ericrrichard@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:47 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Eric

Torrington,CT

ericrrichard@yahoo.com

From: Eric Richard <ericrrichard@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:49 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you to strongly encourage you to implement statewide regulations on wake surfing. Wake boats are critical to our marinas and the local jobs that they support. Currently, municipalities are considering enacting an arbitrary hodgepodge of restrictions, including outright bans.

From a policy standpoint, this makes no sense. Connecticut should not have different regulations regarding wake surfing across different towns.

Most importantly, these regulations have economic ramifications for the marina at which I'm employed. Demand for wake boats is soaring. My job depends on ensuring wake boats, in wake mode, continue to be legal across the state.

Regulations should be rooted in science, balancing recreational imperatives with environmental protection. There are several important considerations that should be made as you undertake this study.

We need reasonable statewide regulations. It makes no sense to have disparate rules around wake surfing in different towns. I am in support of a common statewide regulation across Connecticut's waterways that ensures our state remains a desirable tourist destination.

Over-restrictive regulations could be extremely damaging. There are people, families, and towns that depend on our ability to sell these boats to consumers. It is critical to remember that behind every regulation, there are residents – like me – who are impacted. We just want to help our families get by and make ends meet.

When it comes to wake surfing, distortions abound. Regulations that have occurred so far have been based on falsehoods and fear-mongering. We know that the science shows that when done at the right distance from shore, wake surfing is not only safe, but also has minimal environmental impact.

Restrictions on wake surfing will be easily implemented and enforceable. We are proud of the role we play in instructing boat owners to operate safely and respectfully and in compliance with Connecticut's restrictions on speed and distance from shore. Adding further restrictions on wake surfing would fit easily in our existing educational program and be as readily enforceable as existing distance restrictions on other sports.

I believe deeply in protecting our waterways from an environmental standpoint. But I also believe in science. The science shows that this is a safe activity, and should be regulated as such.

Together, we must preserve the integrity of our waterways, the interests of individuals to pursue

the recreation of their choice, and businesses like ours that depend on this activity. I urge you to implement a balanced approach that prevents municipalities from creating arbitrary policies.

Sincerely,

Jeanne

Winsted,CT

hiddenacresct@gmail.com

From: Mike Abate <mike.abate.designs@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:24 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboats

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing today on the topic of wakeboats. While I understand that some individuals are petitioning to rid the lakes of all wakeboats, I am here to try to do the opposite, and shine some light on the facts. I have seen comments of wakeboard eroding shorelines or lake beds. While this can be a true statement, it is in fact, a true statement for many more boats that ARE NOT wake boats as well. Some of the vessels that inhabit our lakes are just as large as the wakeboard (if not larger), and create just as large of a wake. The comments about eroding lake beds is one that I've read in numerous places, but all seem to fall short on the same points. For a wake boat to make the correct wake/wave, the water needs to be deep enough. Boaters and surfers/riders, the majority, if not all of the time, will not go where it is shallow enough to impact, due to the wake not being able to form correctly.

Wakeboarding and wake surfing are family activities. They bring families together and are a wholesome way for people to spend their time on the water. Personally, it is how I met my wife, and it is how we choose to spend our free time together, and with the addition of a baby girl to our family, we cannot wait to introduce her to watersports. We as wake boat owners, aren't looking to cause trouble, and disrupt peoples lives, just looking to have wholesome fun as a family, and doing so in a safe manner.

While this isn't directly tied to wakeboats, I feel the need to touch on this. The topic of wakeboats might be at discussion right now, but with all due respect, I feel as if there are much bigger problems on our waters. The invasive species that are growing and inhabiting our lakes, the personal watercraft operators that a large majority do not register or have a license to operate, and cause hysteria and near accidents every weekend, and reckless operations. Checking and enforcing proper laws for safe PWC operations is a much larger safety factor than the impacts that wakeboats are currently. As an avid boater, water sports enthusiast, general lover of the lake and waters, I frequently go out on the water for enjoyment, but also frequently witness such reckless behaviors and fear for my safety.

I sincerely hope that this reaches the right people, and that wakeboats do not become a thing of the past. There are much larger issues at hand, and if we can all work together, we can make our waters peaceful and a place of enjoyment for all.

Thank you,
Mike Abate

From: Teague Crocco <candlecroc@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:45 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboard Study

Hello

Please strongly consider banning this activity as it has consistently eroded our beautiful shorelines resulting in exposing the roots of trees causing them to fall into the water.

Thankyou

From: Michael Imhoff <michael.imhoff@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:52 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Hello,

I wanted to reach out as a homeowner and waterfront resident of Candlewood Lake, in New Fairfield, CT. We have been in possession of our home since I believe 1982, and have enjoyed a few of generations growing up on the water.

We have a wake boat, and enjoy sharing this passion with our family as well as friends. We are always very respectful of neighbors and others that are using the lake for recreation purposes, whether it be lounging on a nice afternoon, water skiing, wake boarding, taking in the views on a nice cruise, or fishing from time to time.

I feel that wake surfers get a very bad rap, but in honesty, the vast majority of us are very respectful of the shorelines and other boaters. I'm reminded of this every time I see a large bowrider going 50' from my dock at 10 mph, throwing a huge wake while sightseeing, or while watching the bass fisherman driving 60+ mph to their next fishing hole.

I'm very much in support of the environment, the science behind the lake's ecosystem, as well as the facts of what's really impacting our lakes. First light raising the lake levels to max capacity in March is what's destroying our natural shorelines, which is why most of our islands are slowly disappearing. We look out at Vaughn's neck, where the two little islands are, one of which is Skeleton Island. It is a rare sight to see anyone surfing remotely close to that island, so wakesurfing is NOT what's causing our islands and shorelines to erode.

The studies around wakesurfing are also very frustrating, as no one is surfing in 10-15' waters, as the wake dissipates at such low water levels.

Of all the boats on Candlewood Lake on a given day, wakeboats probably make up 1-3%, and they are not the problem. I really hope that DEEP can find some common ground and common sense and prevent unnecessary limitations on wakeboats in general. If they wanted to impose a rule of 200' feet, similar to jet skis, not a single wakesurf boat owner would have a problem with that, because we aren't doing it in the first place.

Please focus on the real problems, and don't put blame on the wrong aspects of what's really impacting our lake and the other lakes in Connecticut.

Have a great day,
Michael Imhoff

From: Camille Auth <camimiauth@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:58 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wake surf Study

Dear DEEP Department of Boating,

I am a high school student in the 9th grade and I am writing to say that I support wake surfing. I am very sad to learn that next year there might be changes to rules at Lake Waramaug, and I wanted to let you know that I hope I am allowed to continue to surf behind my family's and friend's boats on the Lake.

My main sport is swimming and I spend a lot of time in the summer swimming on the Lake. Calm water is best for swimming and I never have any problems with motorboats in the morning. This past summer, I learned to surf behind a motorboat. It was a new sport for me and I really love it. I have grown up on the Lake and have always tubed, skied, and wake boarded. They are all fun too but learning and doing something new with surfing made the summer really special for me. One of my favorite things is to bring friends and teach them this new sport. They love it too and I know they always tell their families and other friends that surfing is a highlight for them on Lake Waramaug.

I don't understand why people don't like surfing. When I look at the wakes caused by the different motorboat activities, they seem to be about the same size. The wakes get much smaller as they move across the water. I also think that surfing is safer than tubing, skiing and wake boarding because you are moving slower. I have never heard about anyone being injured while surfing or from the wakes created by surfing, tubing, skiing or wake boarding.

New sports and activities are being created all the time these days, and I hope Connecticut is a place that supports and doesn't prevent them. Please keep surfing along with tubing, skiing and wake boarding on Lake Waramaug.

Thank you,
Camille Auth

From: Sherman Baldwin <sbaldwin@lcrcapital.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:26 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and wakesurf study

Dear DEEP team,

I learned to swim in Lake Waramaug over 50 years ago and have been a CT state resident for the past 50 plus years. My wife Alice and I bought a home on Lake Waramaug in 2022, and we love wake surfing with our adult children on the lake. It is a fun and safe family bonding experience that should continue on the lake being governed by common sense state-wide regulations. It is not something that should be governed by a municipal ban that is not grounded in science. I care deeply about the lake and the environment, and the new ordinance is an arbitrary restriction and a government taking of my boat and an activity that has zero environmental impact on the lake. Wakesurfing represents less than 2% of the activity on Lake Waramaug during the course of the year. DEEP at the State level has an opportunity to step in with this new study and develop a set of common sense state-wide regulations that will enable all residents to enjoy this activity and other activities safely on the lake. Connecticut needs common—and common-sense—standards for wakesurfing rather than individual, misguided town-by-town regulations. The state should act because towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts. This is why we need DEEP to step in.

Lake Waramaug in Connecticut has always been an incredibly special place for me. I come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and go wake surfing. Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote an irresponsible ban, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug. This issue has impacted me firsthand. As a boat owner, I invested in my boat so my family, friends, and community can enjoy this activity. Now, I can no longer use it for its intended purpose. I will have to either sell my boat—and likely lose much of the money I put into it—or move it to another lake. Doing that risks serious biological and environmental risks, including the spread of invasive species that can harm native ecosystems, outcompete local wildlife, and degrade water quality. By banning wake surfing, local officials have unwittingly created potential environmental harm. I shouldn't have to suffer a financial loss—especially when local officials refused to understand the issue or look at the facts. DEEP should remove the ability of local towns to pass regulations. We cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories. What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together. It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

I also want to highlight the excellent letters written by Tom Godward and Jamie Better who are our neighbors on the lake. They shared their letters with me, and I am completely supportive of the arguments that they both so eloquently expressed.

*All the Best,
Sherman*

From: Debby <Debby@Zep.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:25 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

These are my comments regarding the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study. This is an important DEEP study to make sure our lakes are not impacted environmentally or recreationally by the large waves and surf created by enhanced wake boats.

My concerns are:

1. I stand up paddle board (SUP) and kayak on Coventry Lake. Due to the increased size of wakes from enhanced wake boats I do not use my SUP when these boats are active on the lake. There is a greater risk of falling when crossing over the multiple large waves. If I fell I feel I am at risk for reduced visibility by other boats while off the board and in the water. I do kayak while these boats are out but try to avoid the path of an enhanced wake boat.
2. I have watched a video from the University of Minnesota based on a study that shows the possible unfavorable impact on aquatic plants from enhanced wake boats. If aquatic plants are impacted then the food for fish and fowl within the lake may be impacted adversely as well. Loosing vegetation and wildlife might be a threat to the overall health of a lake. An unhealthy lake then leads to an economic downturn to in the watershed area and its municipality. The university video can be found at:
 - a. https://www.outdoorlife.com/conservation/wake-surfing-controversy-second-study/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwMazTFleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHj-1ivY5FQG4IWJOVkgBSubhoKv1fO0jt1nIDBWad-SfMBzzDIjgLuPT9xp_aem_teDwjLWH3UhNbSkL_xVOnw
3. On busy boating days I will discover erosion on my lakefront beach, I cannot ID a particular wake enhanced boat as the when the waves hit my shoreline the culprit boat is no longer in the area. The more usage by this type of boating the more erosion will continue. This is also not healthy for the lake.

For enjoyment for those who do use wake enhanced boats they need to be aware of any impacts that are found in this study. The questions are: Should enhanced wake boating be:

1. Restricted to a depth and width so the impact is lessened on vegetation (depth) and shoreline (width)?
2. Banned from usage on a lake due to the potential damages that can occur (like lake Waramaug)?

Deborah Zeppa
93 W. Shore Dr.
Coventry, CT 0628
H: 860 742 7169

Attached copy of my comments as a word.doc



2025 Oct 22
Comment to DEEP o

From: Alicea <alicea@riversalliance.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:32 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Davis, Justin <Justin.Davis@ct.gov>; Cimino, Emma <Emma.Cimino@ct.gov>; Stevens, Graham <Graham.Stevens@ct.gov>; Bellucci, Christopher <Christopher.Bellucci@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find the attached comments of Rivers Alliance on the scope of the Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study.

Warm Regards,

Alicea

Alicea Charamut, Executive Director

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

PO Box 1797

Litchfield, CT 06759

(860) 361-9349 Office

(860) 416-7859 Cell

riversalliance.org



Wake Boat and
Wake Surfing Study

From: Protect Lake Waramaug <main@protectlakewaramaug.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:08 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached please find the official submission from Protect Lake Waramaug: Coalition to Ban Wake Surfing.

Regards,

Bruce Birenboim and Kelly Williams on behalf of Protect Lake Waramaug



PLW 10-22-25 DEEP
Submission FINAL.pdf

From: Andy Bordick <Andy.Bordick@ametek.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:09 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Surfing Public Comment

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

With regards to your actions to address Wake Surfing in CT, I recommend that DEEP develop guidelines similar to Waterskiing and PWC activity.

1. Factors related to public access - As there are many boating activities, some of which have regulations, The general public should have a right to use the waters of CT for recreational purposes to include Wake Surfing, similar to other boating activities. The public has a right to use CT waters.
2. Approaches other states or municipalities have taken to manage or regulate wake boat operation and wakesurfing - no other states have published outright bans on this activity. The most common regulations average a distance and depth to manage this activity. The average is around 250' from shore with a depth of 15' or more.
3. Recreational factors (wakesurfing as a recreational activity, and compatibility with/impacts to other recreational activities such as fishing, rowing, water skiing, tubing, swimming, other on-water uses) Wakesurfing is a good activity for those with physical or mental limitations. We have personally towed our friend who is autistic and he loved it. He cannot waterski or wake board. But he can surf. Also, this is a great activity for the older generation as it is easy on the body. The results of this activity are no worse than tubing or aggressive PWC activity, which we see every day on our lake.
4. Environmental factors (e.g., fish, wildlife, water quality, habitat, impacts to shoreline or lakebed, sediment suspension, vegetation, aquatic invasive species, etc.) Wake surfing makes a large wake. But distance and depth have proven to mitigate the effects of that wave. We have been surfing Bashan Lake for 6 years and the most recent DEEP survey shows that it's healthier than ever.
5. Navigation or safety factors to a variety of boating activities (e.g., power boating, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding rowing, personal watercraft operation, pontoon cruising, etc.)
6. Economics and tourism - There are many boat dealer and service shops that will be negatively impacted by aggressive restrictions and could possibly bring legal action against the state for loss of usage or revenue.
7. Existing studies, reports, or research that DEEP should consider
8. Enforcement - While there are existing studies on the generic hydrologic action of wake surfing, each lake is different. Some generic guidelines can likely help guide each lake, but we should monitor the lakes individually for health. Any lake over ~100 acres with a depth over 30' is a good candidate to support this activity.

Regards,

Andy Bordick

20 Bailey Rd

East Haddam, CT 06423

Abordick@comcast.net

203.819.1795

From: Gregory Trefry <gtrefry@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:08 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

To Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

My name is Greg Trefry. My wife Ginger Gray-Trefry and I own a home Highland Lake in Winsted, Connecticut at 358 East Wakefield Drive. We have been boating on Highland Lake for the last 25 years.

I just put my two sons through Connecticut's safeboating workshop and test this summer.

We love and cherish the lake and its surrounding environments. We're the happy owners of a sunfish sailboat, two kayaks and a wakeboat. We recognize there are many ways to enjoy the water and interact with the lake in a responsible manner, whether you're carefully sailing through a channel or courteously pulling wakesurfers in the middle of the lake, away from other boats and the shoreline. That's the behavior we follow and have taught to our kids.

We're glad the state is investigating the impacts of wakeboating. And we're happy to abide by the scientific findings and recommendations of the department. We worry a bit that individual town regulations will be driven more by misinformation and personal preferences of loud local voices rather than close scientific observation. As such we support a more statewide approach driven by your department that clearly defines how and where wakesurfing should be done.

Cheers,
Greg Trefry

From: John Swanson <jswanson@swansonlawllc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:57 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Bashan Waters Recreational Group LLC, please find attached hereto a submittal in response to the October 6, 2025, Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment Scope of Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study.

Please confirm receipt of this email and that the attachment could be opened and downloaded.

Thank you.

John B. Swanson
Swanson Law, LLC
9 Austin Drive, Suite 212
Marlborough, CT 06447
Ph: 860.365-5354
Fax: 860.467-6003
Email: jswanson@swansonlawllc.com



BashanWatersRecre
ationalGroupLLC_Pu

From: Kendra Cika <kendracika5@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:25 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

**Sincerely,
Kendra Cika**

From: Sophie Scrivo <sgs1112@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:30 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sophie Scrivo
Chester ,CT
sgs1112@comcast.net

From: Mac Aube <macaube@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:33 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Mac
Warren,CT
373 Lake Road Home Owner
(Also if out boat doesn't produce a big wake, can we still surf if this ban goes through?) (also c'mon let us surf this ban is incredibly meh) macaube25@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jared Battat <jaredbattat@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:03 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Jared
Washington, CT
jaredbattat@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: R. Hoops <robhoops@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:38 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and wake surf study

To whom it may concern,

I am a couple months from my 70th birthday. I have enjoyed wake surfing for the last 16 years. I have a wake surfing boat on Bashan Lake which I have used safely for the last 15 years and a ski boat for 16 years before that. Wake surfing takes place at around 7-10 mph, much safer closure rates with other lake users. Compare that with 25-30 mph for water skiers, boats pulling tubes and wake boarders. I know the waves dissipate substantially as they approach from the center section of the lake, they lose energy.

Use a common sense approach to this issue, make all boaters aware that the preferred area to wake surf is the center section, just as the locals, like myself, have always done.

Make this state wide.

Sent from my iPad

From: Aidan Amster <abeeamster@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:44 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

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Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

From: Lillian Auth <la7999@princeton.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:05 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wake Surf Study

Dear DEEP Department of Boating,

I am writing in support of wake surfing on Lake Waramaug. I am a sophomore in college, a division 1 rower, and I grew up on Lake Waramaug. I am also a passionate supporter of wake surfing. I generally row in the morning or at the end of the day when the water is best and I go with my family and friends on motorboats in the afternoon to tube, ski, wake-board and surf. There seems to be a natural cadence to the day and use of the Lake where non-motorized boats go out in the mornings and motorboats go out in the afternoon. I think this works well and allows for open and enjoyable participation in the variety of recreational activities that exist on Lake Waramaug. As a rower, kayaker and swimmer, I have never had any problems with surf boats either in the morning or late afternoon. Wakes that disrupt my rowing are most always from fishing boats and occasional water ski boats.

I picked up wake surfing about two years ago. Learning and engaging in new sports is always exciting. I think it would be wrong for surfing and other new activities to be arbitrarily banned. That makes no sense to me. Controlling and regulating activities would be the logical approach as opposed to completely banning a new and fun activity that has been on the Lake for years. Plus many young people who are moving to or already live on the lake are starting to get more involved in surfing. It would be extremely unfortunate to take away something so many people are starting to get excited about.

Also, from my experience, there is no demonstrated problem with surfing and I don't believe the claims of harm are not based on reality. Having been tubing, wake-boarding, skiing and surfing for several years, I can say from first hand experience that I think the claims of damage to the lake from any of these activities, surfing included, are exaggerated. The wakes are all about the same size and the wakes all dissipate over distance so that the impact to docks and the shore is not substantial. Merely cruising in a motorboat close to shore produces a larger impact on docks and the shore line than surfing, tubing, water skiing and wake-boarding at an appropriate distance. Wakes from all activities do move docks but I have never seen any issues from wakes on our family dock or shoreline over the 20 years I have been at the Lake.

An important note is safety. I have been tending to favor surfing over tubing, skiing and wake-boarding because surfing is lower impact and I am concerned about injuries that could impact my rowing career. Tubing, skiing and wake-boarding are all done at much faster speeds and as a result are more likely to lead to injuries. I have seen and heard of numerous injuries from tubing, skiing and wake-boarding and I have never heard of any injuries from surfing. Because of this, surfing is something my entire family feels comfortable doing. My parents are not comfortable with high speed activities as they are older and as a result they will not participate in tubing, skiing or wake-boarding. It would be upsetting to see the only boat activity they can participate in go away. Surfing is the one activity we all enjoy together.

I sincerely hope that the DEEP and the State of Connecticut decide to support surfing. Regulated use and access seem to make the most sense and is something I would wholeheartedly support. A ban is overly restrictive and is inconsistent with the idea of supporting both broad recreational use on the Lake and the development of new activities. A coordinated regulatory approach would be nice in that we can have clearly defined times and or places for non-motorized and motorized activities so that all Lake users can engage in activities they enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lillian Auth

From: Lillian Auth <la7999@princeton.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:03 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Lake Waramaug Surfing

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

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I generally row in the morning or at the end of the day when the water is best and I go with my family and friends on motorboats in the afternoon to tube, ski, wake-board and surf. There seems to be a natural cadence to the day and use of the Lake where non-motorized boats go out in the mornings and motorboats go out in the afternoon. I think this works well and allows for open and enjoyable participation in the variety of recreational activities that exist on Lake Waramaug. As a rower, kayaker and swimmer, I have never had any problems with surf boats either in the morning or late afternoon. Wakes that disrupt my rowing are most always from fishing boats and occasional water ski boats.

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Also, from my experience, there is no demonstrated problem with surfing and I don't believe the claims of harm are not based on reality. Having been tubing, wake-boarding, skiing and surfing for several years, I can say from first hand experience that I think the claims of damage to the lake from any of these activities, surfing included, are exaggerated. The wakes are all about the same size and the wakes all dissipate over distance so that the impact to docks and the shore is not substantial. Merely cruising in a motorboat close to shore produces a larger impact on docks and the shore line than surfing, tubing, water skiing and wake-boarding at an appropriate distance. Wakes from all activities do move docks but I have never seen any issues from wakes on our family dock or shoreline over the 20 years I have been at the Lake.

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nice in that we can have clearly defined times and or places for non-motorized and motorized activities so that all Lake users can engage in activities they enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lillian Auth

From: Cristy Eguiluz <cristyeguiluz@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:58 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Rodrigo Gutierrez <rodrigo.gutierrez.fernandez@gmail.com>

Subject: Comments on the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Cristy & Rodrigo Gutierrez



CANDLEWOOD.doc

x

From: Mark Cioffi <knobcioffi@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:42 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: wake boat and wake surf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I have been boating on Candlewood Lake for 45 years and I have noticed a lot of erosion and sedimentary damage due to the wakes of these vessels. I can only imagine what is happening under the water to the aquatic environment that we don't see.

They should only be allowed in the deepest part of the lake where they cant do so much damage. I have also seen a lot of damage to boats tied together and docked boats due to the extremely large wakes these boats put out.

Please do something,

From,
Concerned boater

From: Maryellen DiLuzio <mesineh@cs.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:01 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Bill Denya <wdenya@att.net>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see the attached letter. Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this important subject.

**Maryellen DiLuzio, President
Sunset Acres of Bashan Lake, Inc.
East Haddam, CT.**



2025. Letter to
DEEP. no wake surf

From: Jesse Alley <jalley317@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:37 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake boat & wakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.
Good afternoon,

As a long time resident and boater on Candlewood lake, it is alarming to see the environmental impact that seems to be caused by the wakes generated by these water craft.

These wakes are causing substantial erosion of the shoreslines. If you are on the lake and they boats are in the area you can physically see the strong wakes battering the shoreline and stirring up the bottom of the lake in the shallows.

We already struggle to combat the zebra muscle, eurasian watermil foil, grass carp, etc. Why would you continue to allow negative impacts on the environment.

Please stop these boats and the damage they cause!

Jesse Alley

From: Arthur Erickson <arthur@beecherandbennett.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:28 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boating and Wake surfing

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Wake Boating & Wake surfing

I live on Candlewood Lake in New Milford.

I have a floating dock, and I am VERY much against Wake surfing in my area because the massive 4 foot wakes cause tremendous damage to my dock.

Over the last 3 years I have had to spend over \$5,000 to repair my dock due to the undue stress caused by the wakes of wake surfers.

Maritime law states that a vessel is responsible for the damage caused by their wake.

Wake surfers are oblivious to the damage caused by their wakes and very obnoxious when asked to go somewhere else.

PLEASE stop wake boarding on Candlewood Lake north of the narrows in New Milford.

The residents of Lake Warmouge were correct in banning wake surfing on their small lake. The damage caused is extremely costly and damages the environment.

Respectively,

Arthur Erickson

34 Candlewood Shore

New Milford

From: Colleen Quinn Amster <cqamster@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:56 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Colleen Amster
New preston,CT
cqamster@yahoo.com

Sent from iPhone
Colleen Quinn Amster

From: Rusty Owens <rustyjowens@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:00 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

We have lived on Highland Lake for over 20 years. We are water skiers, floaters and slow cruises to socialize and enjoy the beauty and natural wonders of this lake community.

Oversized Wake boats wake surfing in general are limiting our use of the lake. Meaning that when they are on the water, we cannot go out or must come in due to the huge wakes created by Wake boats. These wakes are very destructive and hazardous as they frequently reach over 3-4 feet in height. By oversized, I am referring to an applicable length limit of 22 feet which is NOT enforced by local marine patrol nor DEEP officers.

These wakes are very destructive to our dock and shoreline. We have spent nearly \$900 on repairs to our floating dock just this past season.

NY and VT have implemented regulations specific to Wake Boats. This has eliminated Wake Surfing entirely from many of their lakes. MN has conducted a study which showed they significant ecological damage done by Wake Boats. Also Lake Waramaug has recently banned Wake Surfing entirely due to the ecological damage caused as well as the hazards created to other boaters, kayakers, paddleboarders, fisherman.

Thanks for the opportunity to share our oppinion.

From: Nick MacNab <nabber29@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:01 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Nick
Washington,CT
nabber29@gmail.com

From: Aidan Amster <abeeamster@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:50 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Aidan

New Preston ,CT

abeeamster@gmail.com

From: Tess Herman <tessmail1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:44 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Hi there,

My name is Tess Herman and I am a lifelong Highland Lake resident. I am very happy you are conducting your study. I deeply care about the lake's health and look forward to seeing the results. I certainly do not want the lake's bed destroyed.

I have one comment for the ""Recreational Factors Category." I wonder if instead of outright banning "wakesurfing" a switch in the actually board could solve a lot of issues. We wakesurf with a big longboard behind our old crappy ski boat which I doubt is creating the kind of wakes that are in question here. But what I think could really solve the issue are called "hydrofoil surfboards." These hydrofoil surfboard are extremely popular in ocean settings as a low-impact alternative to kiteboarding and regular surfing. The shape of the hydrofoil surfboard is pretty similar to a wake surf boards although it's more buoyant and has a 2-3 foot hydrofoil attached to the bottom. Because the hydrofoil surfboard has the metal foil, it lifts out of the water and this is the part people actually "surf" with. What I think the advantage could be is that these type of surfboards require significantly less wave power to move as the foil significantly reduces drags amongst other physical properties. In theory boats could have much smaller wakes but people could still "wake surf" using hydrofoil surfboards. These hydrofoil surfboards can actually be propelled with your power in legs so they don't even require wake at all. I feel like this could be a good option to require people to use instead of outright surf bans. I'm not sure if our Highland Lake has enough deep sections to have a traditional wake surf zone, but maybe something like requiring Hydro foil surfboards (or using an old longboard behind a crappy boat) could be the nuance that reserves this super fun lake sport in a much healthier way.

I'm sure there are a million YouTube videos that show how these special boards work. I don't own one, but I plan on buying one next summer to test this all out at the lake myself as I am also conflicted on this problem! I've only used them in the ocean.

Thank you!!

Tess Herman

From: Tess Herman <tessmail1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:45 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

My name is Tess Herman and I am a lifelong Highland Lake resident. I am very happy you are conducting your study. I deeply care about the lake's health and look forward to seeing the results. I certainly do not want the lake's bed destroyed.

I have one comment for the ""Recreational Factors Category." I wonder if instead of outright banning "wakesurfing" a switch in the actually board could solve a lot of issues. We wakesurf with a big longboard behind our old crappy ski boat which I doubt is creating the kind of wakes that are in question here. But what I think could really solve the issue are called "hydrofoil surfboards." These hydrofoil surfboard are extremely popular in ocean settings as a low-impact alternative to kiteboarding and regular surfing. The shape of the hydrofoil surfboard is pretty similar to a wake surf boards although it's more buoyant and has a 2-3 foot hydrofoil attached to the bottom. Because the hydrofoil surfboard has the metal foil, it lifts out of the water and this is the part people actually "surf" with. What I think the advantage could be is that these type of surfboards require significantly less wave power to move as the foil significantly reduces drags amongst other physical properties. In theory boats could have much smaller wakes but people could still "wake surf" using hydrofoil surfboards. These hydrofoil surfboards can actually be propelled with your power in legs so they don't even require wake at all. I feel like this could be a good option to require people to use instead of outright surf bans. I'm not sure if our Highland Lake has enough deep sections to have a traditional wake surf zone, but maybe something like requiring Hydro foil surfboards (or using an old longboard behind a crappy boat) could be the nuance that reserves this super fun lake sport in a much healthier way.

I'm sure there are a million YouTube videos that show how these special boards work. I don't own one, but I plan on buying one next summer to test this all out at the lake myself as I am also conflicted on this problem! I've only used them in the ocean.

Thank you!!

Tess Herman

Sent from my iPhone

From: heather@sevenstarsstudio.com <heather@sevenstarsstudio.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:46 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

To DEEP Boating:

I'm responding to your invitation to comment on your upcoming "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study" because the many adverse impacts of wake boats in surf mode have been of such concern to my community. I have lived on Lake Waramaug in Warren, CT, on a lakeshore property my whole life and have also carefully read the findings of the study by the Terra Vigilis Environmental Services Group (a highly recommended source of science on this issue), who were retained in 2023 by the Lake towns of Warren, Washington, and Kent to study the impacts of wake boats in surf mode on Lake Waramaug. This year, 78% of those who voted in referenda in all three towns, myself among them, voted in favor of the ordinance to ban wake surfing, an ordinance recently reviewed and approved by the DEEP.

My first concern about wake boats in surf mode is for safety, and this was also a concern for many of the respondents to the survey conducted by Terra Vigilis as Phase One of their study. Safety concerns about wake boats in surf mode center on the effects of the very large wake and waves that they create, as well as the way in which the stern is weighed down by heavy ballast and the bow is raised up to the point where the operator cannot fully see what may be right in front of him but below his field of view on the water, e.g. kayaks, sculls, canoes, and paddleboarders. A great many more of these small non-motorized watercraft are in use on the lake than ever before, and many survey respondents reported such events as being swamped or nearly swamped by wake-boat waves while rowing or kayaking and being knocked off paddleboards; operators of other motorized craft such as ski boats also reported difficult and dangerous conditions caused by both the wake and the waves of wake boats in surf mode, causing their boats to rock dangerously from the waves and to slam down hard while traversing the wake, endangering both the occupants of the vessel and skiers in tow. People also reported feeling unsafe to swim and even feeling unsafe on their floating docks as they rock violently in the large waves from wake boats.

I'm also very concerned about the adverse environmental impacts of wake boats in surf mode. As I sit on my deck by the water when wake boats are passing by, even at quite a distance, I watch as larger-than-ever waves churn across the shallows - where 90% of aquatic plants and organisms live and where the fish build their nests - and pound my shoreline, undercutting the large stones that I put in at great expense to stabilize the shoreline and turning the water into a brown soup. This has many adverse effects, among them a decline in water quality, which affects both people and wildlife, including the stock of fish for the lake's many anglers. Many survey respondents reported similar adverse effects on the environment of their lakeshore as well as on their property, including their shoreline, their floating docks and boats moored to these docks, as well as on their ability to enjoy their property.

Phase Two of the Terra Vigilis study documented the surface wave impacts of wake boats in surf mode such as shoreline erosion, the creation of turbid water, and damage to aquatic plants and other organisms, which are often visible. But it's important to note that Phase Three of their study documented via deep-water videography the sub-surface impacts of a 26-foot propeller downwash and the ways in which it penetrates the thermocline barrier and disturbs the sediment on the bottom of the lake, releasing the concentrated phosphorus that is stored there, the nutrient that most contributes to the growth of algae and toxic cyanobacteria. It's also important to note that the Terra Vigilis studies did not find any of these adverse impacts from conventional water ski or cruising vessels, and also that they state that their findings are consistent with similar studies

nationwide; such studies have been extensive and have led many lake communities around the country to ban wake boats in surf mode.

The Terra Vigilis study recommended a 500-foot buffer *minimum* for wake boats in surf mode not just from near-shore and sensitive areas of the lake for environmental reasons, but from all other vessels for safety reasons. Given the small size of Lake Waramaug with its narrow basins, this degree of buffer is simply not possible. This makes our lake an example of a water body in which the adverse impacts of wake surfing cannot be eliminated or even mitigated sufficiently to safely allow for this use, and a complete ban is required.

In all of our water bodies in the State of Connecticut we need to protect the environment and public health and safety and to provide for a wide and balanced spectrum of recreational uses by residents and visitors alike, including water-skiing and tubing, the use of small non-motorized watercraft, fishing, swimming, and the quiet enjoyment of nature. The group at Lake Waramaug that was not in favor of the ban on wake surfing and discounted the science of the Terra Vigilis study, "Lake Waramaug Friends," made among other claims that such a ban would impinge upon their "freedom" and that the lake should be "shared by everyone." I voted for the ban for several reasons. This use by a very small percentage of people endangers the safety of others - which no one has the freedom to do - and can constrain or even preclude other uses of the lake, which is in no way a form of sharing or of balanced public use. Wake surfing damages lakeshore property, including people's shoreline, retaining walls, docks, and moored boats. And it has an adverse impact on water quality and by extension the whole ecology of the lake, which should be protected as a healthy ecosystem for everyone to benefit from and enjoy.

I also believe that voluntary restraints of some kind on wake surfing cannot reliably solve such a host of problems and that this activity requires ordinances as needed in each individual case - including a complete ban - to eliminate these adverse impacts and that enforcement of these ordinances, to be effective, should include a significant fine imposed upon those who defy them. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Heather Allen
96 North Shore Road
Warren, CT 06777

From: Jay Hoops <jrhps@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:36 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together. I have been wakesurfing in Connecticut since I was 10 years old.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together. If you have any additional questions for me or about my personal experiences with wakesurfing please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jason Hoops
Middletown, CT
Cottage owner on Bashan Lake, East Haddam, CT
jrhps@sbcglobal.net
860-335-9992

From: Edgar Berner <eberner@johnlang.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:37 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: FW: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached please find the Lake Waramaug Authority's response to your request for comments.



Wake Boat &
Wakesurf Study.pdf

From: jennifer perga <jen_perga@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:19 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP experts,

I live at Highland Lake in Winsted, and my favorite activities include swimming, kayaking and paddleboarding. I also waterski.

Most wake surfing boaters at Highland Lake try to be careful about staying in the middle of the lake. Highland Lake is so narrow, however, that the waves from these boats still reach the shore at very high levels and high energy.

It is almost impossible to swim, kayak or paddleboard if wake surfing boats are in use. Additionally, sea walls and docks are under great stress due to the force of the waves created.

My neighbors and I are doing repairs on seawalls more frequently. The waves also "overtop" many seawalls, creating erosion behind the walls.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jennifer Perga

From: Mickey <mikhig@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:34 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

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Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Mikel
Washington,CT
mikhig@gmail.com

From: John Amster <jamster.1998@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:21 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

John Amster

112 Gunn Hill Road

New Preston, CT 06777

Commissioner Katherine S. Dykes

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

79 Elm Street

Hartford, CT 06106-5127

October 22, 2025

Subject: Response to Request for Input on DEEP's Wake Boat and Wake Surf Study

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

To the Commissioner:

I am writing in response to Connecticut DEEP's request for input on its forthcoming Wake Boat and Wake Surfing Study.

I have owned property in Washington since 2019 and became a Connecticut resident 2 years ago. I live ¼ mile from, and have owned a boat that is moored on, Lake Waramaug since 2020. I am an avid outdoorsperson, maintain our 40 acres in a fully organic and ecologically sustainable way, and have been a very generous supporter of a variety of local and national environmental groups.

I am writing to express my opinion that the use of boats with ballasts and wave enhancing devices should be allowed and regulated at the State level.

People who have lobbied and voted in favor of banning wake surfing have focused primarily on environmental concerns (water quality, erosion, etc...) and safety (people and boats being impacted by large wakes). If either concern were supported by scientific evidence, I would be in favor of banning wake surfing and the use of ballasts and wave enhancing devices. But that is not the case. Looking at the situation on Lake Waramaug as a proxy for the broader discussion is informative.

There was no evidence presented whatsoever of any environmental harm caused by wake surfing. In fact, the water quality data shows unambiguously that Lake Waramaug's water quality has improved over the past fifty years and that the last ten years, the period over which wake surfing has gained popularity, has seen the highest water quality since we began collecting the data in 1977. There is also no evidence that wake surfing poses greater dangers than other motorized

water activities like tubing, jet skiing and waterskiing. In fact, data shows that wake surfing, which takes place at very low speeds, poses the least risk. People voted based on fear not fact.

The one study relied upon during the Lake Waramaug process, the Terra Vigilis study, was deeply flawed and did not quantify any environmental or safety impact on the lake. I believe many people have articulated in detail the flaws in the report, but the most important fact is that that the study did nothing to measure actual boating activity on the lake to determine if the waves people were complaining about were created by wake boats. The study compared a wake boat with a full ballast driving at 9 mph to a waterski boat planning at 25 mph. Critically, the study did not look at boats without ballasts driving slowly filled with people, which in many cases will create waves equally as powerful to wake surf boats. In addition, the Terra Vigilis study did not attempt to assess any actual environmental impact.

If DEEP actually has time to conduct a proper study, they should conclude that the regulation at Lake Waramaug is in fact arbitrary, unreasonable and unnecessarily restrictive. There are many reasons, but to keep things simple, consider the following:

- Under the current regulation on Lake Waramaug, I can no longer use my ballast, but I can have 8 people on my boat which creates a similar weight to my ballast;
- I can generate a large surfable wave; and
- I can't use a wave shaping device which actually limits the energy created by that wake;

The Lake is worse off because:

- I can no longer surf without loading my boat with people thus generating the same large wake targeted by the regulation from the moment I leave the mooring in shallow water, which could cause actual environmental harm; and
- When surfing I can't use the device that dramatically decreases the energy created on one side of the boat which limits the potential impact of the wave.

I believe this falls within the definition of arbitrary.

Importantly, I do not think that the towns or DEEP can preempt the boat weight limits set by the USCG. Attempting to limit the use of ballasts is not a reasonable way around federal weight limits.

Nobody likes large wakes but the current regulation won't help (adding to the notion that the regulation is arbitrarily singling out wake surfing and wake boats). The current situation is that a similar number of large wakes will still be created on Lake Waramaug because large wakes come from large boats packed with people driving slowly. There are more of those than there are wake boats driving with full ballasts. A reasonable regulation on use of ballasts in sufficiently deep water would actually ameliorate any potential concerns. Allowing use of wave shaping devices would also actually ameliorate concerns.

There are many other concerning issues about the regulation that will create problems on the Lake next summer. To name just one, consider the difficulty of enforcement. If someone is wake surfing next summer with 10 people on a boat without the use of ballasts are they going to be stopped. What are the safety risks of a boat approaching another boat with someone conducting a sport behind the boat? There are many, not just for the boat being stopped, but for any other boats potentially pulling people doing activities at much higher speeds.

I appreciate the situation DEEP faces when presented with a regulation passed by a multi-town vote. However, I also think it is important for our State to regulate the use of our water and protection of our environment based on science. In situations where a town passes a regulation based on fear and hyperbole, the State should step in and let science guide regulation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

John Amster

From: Brian Coyman <bcoyman@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:23 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boats

Dear DEEP Boating Division,

As a homeowner and boat owner on Candlewood Lake, I respectfully urge the Department to ensure that wakeboats, wakeboarding and wakesurfing continue to be allowed in Connecticut with reasonable, evidence-based guidelines rather than restrictive bans.

Wake sports are an important part of our lake community—bringing families together, promoting healthy outdoor activity, and supporting local businesses, including marinas, marine service providers, and hospitality operations that depend on boating tourism. These economic and social benefits are significant for the region and should be weighed alongside environmental and safety considerations.

Like all water activities, responsible operation is key. Education and enforcement—not prohibition—are the most effective tools to address concerns about shoreline erosion or safety. Many states have successfully implemented common-sense distance and speed regulations that balance recreation with environmental stewardship. Connecticut can adopt a similar approach, using data and local input to guide decisions tailored to each waterbody rather than one-size-fits-all restrictions.

Candlewood Lake has long demonstrated that multiple forms of recreation can coexist when users act responsibly and respect established guidelines. With continued cooperation, thoughtful education, and modern boating technologies designed to reduce impact, wake sports can remain a safe, sustainable, and valued part of our state's outdoor recreation economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your commitment to a balanced, fact-based study.

Sincerely,
Brian Coyman
Homeowner and Boat Owner,
New Fairfield,
Candlewood Lake, CT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Finn Amster <finnster923@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:28 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Finn

New Prestob,CT

finnster923@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: zalamander@icloud.com <zalamander@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:32 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Department of Boating,

I am a high school senior and I have grown up on Lake Waramaug. I am a US National Team rower and competitive swimmer. The Lake and flat water are very important to me and Lake Waramaug is a wonderful place for me to row and swim. In addition, I very much enjoy motorboat sports on the Lake and I especially enjoy wake surfing. It concerns me that there is the possibility of a complete surfing ban. I see no reason why I can't both row and surf. These activities have coexisted for years and can continue to coexist.

Surfing has been targeted as unsafe, something that causes damage to property and the Lake, and as an activity that can lead to injuries. I don't think any of that is true. The water quality is amazing and is getting better each year. We have never heard of any injuries from surfing and I have not seen any damage to the shore or dock at our house.

I often invite friends to surf with me in the afternoons, after rowing in the morning. When I am with my friends on the motorboat, we all really love surfing and we also play music. It makes for a really fun and memorable afternoon. I believe that the people who are attacking surfing are doing so because they do not like the festive nature of the afternoon that we and other young people create while on the motorboat. I believe they don't like the music we play and they don't like the party-like atmosphere. I know many young people around Lake Waramaug, and each one of them does not want to have limitations on recreational use of the Lake and they want an openness to enjoy new activities. It seems to me that it is the older generation that is unfairly pushing on the younger generation by trying to ban surfing. I don't believe that the DEEP and the State of Connecticut should stand behind that movement.

I really love Lake Waramaug and always have. I personally try to be aware, accommodate and encourage other people's use of the Lake. I am concerned that people in the towns who actually have limited contact with the Lake have come together and created an environment of hostility and distrust at the Lake. This summer left me with a feeling of sadness about the tension created around surfing when it does not need to be the case. I am concerned that mere claims of issues can result in limits on the activities that young people enjoy. Lake Waramaug for me, has become a place of tension, restrictions and concerns about more regulations and bans on things I love. I believe Lake Waramaug should be a place where all recreational activities are supported and encouraged and if there is in fact an issue created by a recreational activity that really does cause damage or injury, we should find ways to still support the activity in ways that limit or avoid damage. Creating an environment of "NO" makes Lake Waramaug a less special place.

I can only ask that the DEEP and the State find ways to say "YES" to support recreational use of Lake Waramaug. Please do not support efforts to limit recreational use and please do not support a culture of "NO".

Sincerely,
Zander Auth

From: Steve Eaton <stevedeaton@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:45 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

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I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Steve
New Preston,CT
stevedeaton@gmail.com

Steve Eaton
917 710 1108

Sent from my iPhone

From: maryshaw72@aol.com <maryshaw72@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:33 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

I am a Connecticut resident and homeowner.

I am a supporter of wake surfing and believe it should continue.

I am a supporter of the environment, of science and facts, and of the State stepping in so that local towns do not implement a hodgepodge of varying regulations that are not informed by science or facts. DEEP needs to step in.

Many thanks,
Mary

Mary S Halsey
maryshaw72@aol.com
203-733-1827 c

From: Bill B <banholzer.bill@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 4:09 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Commissioner Katherine S. Dykes
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Subject: Response to Request for Input on DEEP's Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

I am writing in response to Connecticut DEEP's request for input on its forthcoming Wake Boat and Wakesurfing Study. I am a Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a National Academy of Engineering member with expertise in fluid mechanics and statistical analysis.

My expertise in fluid mechanics, a fundamental competency in chemical engineering, is grounded in the same Navier-Stokes equations used by marine engineers. I have conducted fluid flow analysis, computational modeling, and an innovative study using CT scanning to investigate flow dynamics in fluidized beds. These studies involve principles analogous to the physics of sediment and sand movement in aquatic environments.

I am unaffiliated with any boat manufacturers or industry groups and take an entirely objective approach to understanding and addressing environmental concerns related to boating activities. I have conducted an extensive review of the scientific literature on boat wakes and wave motion and have engaged in dialogues with leading global experts on these topics. Restrictions on wake-enhancing devices enacted on lakes in Connecticut and elsewhere overlook the most current and credible scientific evidence on the environmental effects of wake boats. These bans rest on perception rather than demonstrable impact and therefore fail to meet the evidentiary standards expected for environmental regulation.

1. The Scientific Record Does Not Support Claims of Environmental Harm

An independent peer-reviewed study by the Australian Maritime College (MacFarlane 2018, 2025) demonstrates that wakes from surf-mode boats operated more than 200 feet from shore are indistinguishable in height, energy, and duration from wakes produced by fishing or ski boats at 100 feet operated at 10-12 mph, which would be allowed in the ordinance.

At 200 feet, wake-boat waves average roughly 11 inches with a ~2-second period—the same as waves from a 25 mph wind over a mile of fetch and well below the 9.8-inch / 2.7-second erosion threshold found by Nanson et al. (1994). More than 70 percent of wave energy dissipates within 200 feet (Goudey & Girod 2015). No credible empirical work has shown shoreline instability when this 200-foot standard is observed.

Sediment studies further confirm that no resuspension occurs below 10 feet of depth, even directly under wake boats. Measured subsurface velocities (10–16 cm/s) remain below the 12 cm/s threshold required to mobilize silt (Beachler & Hill 2003; Daeger 2022). Wind, not boat traffic, dominates sediment disturbance (Anthony & Downing 2003).

2. Flawed and Non-Peer-Reviewed Reports Were Given Undue Weight

Much of the alarm about wake-boat impacts derives from self-published Terra Vigilis reports, including one on Lake Waramaug in Connecticut. These documents rely on uncalibrated drone imagery, omit error analysis, and use high-speed ski-boat data as baselines—methodological flaws that invalidate their conclusions. Using unverified reports as a regulatory foundation conflicts with DEEP’s statutory obligation to avoid “arbitrary or unreasonable” rules. How can you allow the prohibition of wake boats yet allow a ski boat operated at 10-12 mph, which has been shown to produce just as large a wave?

3. Selective Regulation Creates Inconsistency and Liability

Connecticut’s existing 100-foot setback already ensures safety and is consistent with other states. Extending restrictions solely to wake-enhancing devices while permitting other large boats to operate in the same semi-displacement regime is scientifically unjustified and legally arbitrary. Nationwide, 46 states maintain the 200-foot or less standard; none impose a 700-foot limit or allow bans. Allowing such uneven local rules creates confusion and invites selective enforcement — an issue DEEP itself noted when stating that its Conservation Police cannot enforce municipal ordinances.

4. Wake Boating’s Actual Risk Profile

Wake boats operate at roughly 11 mph—slower than typical ski boats that exceed 30 mph —and thus cover less area and produce fewer shoreline passes. They are certified safe by the U.S. Coast Guard, and there is no record of accidents unique to wake boats. Nor do they pose a distinct risk for invasive species; modern ballast systems expel >99.9 percent of water, while mobile fishing boats contribute far greater cross-lake transfer risk (Doll 2018).

5. An Arbitrary and Unjustified Decision

Allowing Connecticut lakes to ban wake boats while ignoring other slow-speed recreational activities that produce equivalent or greater wakes violates DEEP’s mandate to disallow wholly arbitrary limits to recreational use of state resources. Such selective treatment cannot be reconciled with scientific evidence or with the agency’s responsibility to ensure fair, uniform, and rational environmental policy. Environmental stewardship requires decisions anchored in quantifiable data, not public pressure or misinformation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to science-based management of Connecticut’s public waters. Attached is a white paper I composed to summarize the current scientific understanding.

Sincerely,

William Banholzer
Professor of Practice, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Member, National Academy of Engineering

From: Jose Macho <jmacho1947@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 8:53 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat Wakesurf Study- Banned on Lake Bunggee

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Wake boats are a serious problem and many states have banned the use of wake boats on inland lakes or restricted their use.

Lake Bunggee Tax District residents in Woodstock last year voted to ban the use of wake boats. There was no opposition as residents understood the harmful effects particularly to shallow lakes like Lake Bunggee. We continue to allow tubing & water skiing with restrictions on boat size and speeds.

From: Thomas Auth <tomauthnyc@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 2:17 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear CT DEEP Boating Division:

Attached please find a letter in connection with the DEEP's review process regarding wake surfing on CT's waterways.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Warm regards,

Thomas Auth



TA Letter to DEEP
10.2025.docx

From: James Fischer <James@whitememorialcc.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:29 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake-Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Boating Division,

On behalf of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on DEEP's Wake-Boat & Wakesurf Study and the associated public notice. We support DEEP's focus on environmental effects (shoreline erosion, lakebed disturbance, sediment resuspension, and AIS risk), compatibility with other recreational activities, and navigation/safety. Statewide policy should not preempt local considerations that would be more protective. We do not support statewide rules that are needed to protect its waters, fisheries, wildlife, shared uses of the waters for other recreational activities, and the safety of swimmers, paddlers, bystanders, and other motorboat users.

Primary conclusions

1. Adopt conservative, science-based minimum standards for any enhanced-wake operation on inland lakes. Peer-reviewed and agency-sponsored studies indicate that wake surf craft require substantially greater distance from shore and greater water depth than conventional boats to reduce near-shore erosion and lakebed disturbance. Findings support a distance of ≥ 1000 ft from shore for wave attenuation and a minimum depth of > 30 ft to reduce lakebed interaction. Connecticut fieldwork at Lake Waramaug documented propeller downwash impacts to ~ 26 ft in surf mode, warranting a more protective standard of ≥ 30 ft depth.
2. Use designated "Enhanced-Wake Zones" (EWZs) only—no statewide default access. Vermont's recent rule confines wake sports to mapped zones that meet the following criteria: ≥ 500 ft from shore and ≥ 20 ft in depth, demonstrating a practical model for mapping, public communication, and enforcement. Recently, *local authorities have advocated for a minimum distance of at least 1,000 feet from shore* because measuring water depth is impractical to enforce. EWZs should be buoyed and published; outside EWZs, wake enhancement must be disabled.
3. Protect littoral habitat, water quality, and other users with clear buffers and patterns. CFL recommends: $\geq 1,000$ ft shoreline/wetland/swim-area setback while wake-enhancing; ≥ 500 ft separation from non-motorized craft and anglers at anchor; mid-lake parallel passes only (no tight circles/figure-8s). These align with DEEP's own permit review factors for marked/restricted areas (erosion, vegetation/sediment disturbance, public safety, and conflicts among user groups).
4. Trigger-based suspensions and AIS controls. Suspend enhanced-wake operation during high-water or Harmful Algal Blooms advisories. Require AIS best practices for ballast systems and leverage Connecticut's existing AIS Stamp program for education and compliance support.
5. Education, governance, and local authority.
 - Update boating safety education to explicitly address wake-boat risks/etiquette, ballast/AIS, and coexistence with other motor boaters, anglers, paddlers, and swimmers.
 - Reconvene the CT Boating Advisory Council and include environmental partners who collaborate with the boating community, including CFL.

· Preserve local authority: Lake Waramaug's recent, DEEP-approved ordinance illustrates that lake-specific conditions sometimes warrant stricter rules.

6. Process and timing. We respectfully request adequate time for technical review of any draft report and recommendations before the 2026 legislative session, with methods, datasets, and drafts posted for public comment to ensure transparency. (As reflected in CEPA/EIE practice for inland-water projects.)

CFL stands ready to assist with public education and stakeholder outreach.

Sincerely,
James Fischer, President
Connecticut Federation of Lakes
PO Box 93
Bridgewater, CT 06752
<https://www.ctlakes.org/>

James Fischer
Research Director
The White Memorial Conservation Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 368
80 Whitehall Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759

Phone: 860-361-1025
<https://whitememorialcc.org/>



CFL Wake Surf
Policy Framework



CFL Wake Boat
C1Bibliography



CFL Wake Surf
Comments to CT DEI

From: Claire Dombi <sheisgumby2@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:32 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern;

Having wake boating on Highland lake causes safety issues and environmental issues to those who live on the lake and those who use it. As a resident living on the lake we have experienced first hand what a wake boat can do while boating. Twice we were almost swamped while having young children on the boat with us. The bow of the boat went up so high, it was close to being perpendicular to the water. I thought for sure we would be tossed into the water, the children were screaming and I was scared for our safety.

As an environmental concern, wakes collide with the walls and in some instances over the walls creating issues not to mention what they stir up when cruising up and around the lake, especially in shallower waters.

Please consider the safety of individuals that use the lake and the long term environmental issues they will cause if they continue to go unchecked.

Thank you,

C Dombi

Sent from my iPad

From: Lety <latieh105@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:35 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing concerning the wakesurf study that is being conducted. Thank you for the opportunity to share our experience.

We have lived in the New Milford bay of Candlewood Lake for 10 years. The Bay was known to be the quietest part of the lake for many years.

The advent of wake boats and wake surfing, has compromised the peaceful nature of the bay. Furthermore, the amount of wake traffic in the bay has increased dramatically. As a result, we have experienced increased dangers and threats to non motorized sports. As you prepare your recommendations, please consider the following real issues:

1. taking a kayak or paddle board out is not just challenging but actually dangerous. The threat of a several concurrent wakes hitting you at once is real when you have more than one wake boat surfing, which is often. If you tip over in your kayak, it's nearly impossible to get back on when you are being swamped by multiple wakes. The likelihood of hitting one's head on the kayak or board is high. And for children even higher.

2. Sound pollution has increased dramatically as well. The boats, all, operate very loud sound systems. It seems this is necessary in order for the surfer to hear the music. The result, is that you could be in your home and hear the music clearly. Often the music is vulgar and not child appropriate. Our bay has become the backdrop for a not PG music video.

3. You are no longer safe on your dock or even boarding your own boat. Two years ago on July 4, there was so much wake surfing traffic that our gang plank collapsed. The amount of torque on the gang plank was so great that it gave way. At the time, our dock and gang plank were only 8 years old. Our son was on walkway when it collapsed. Miraculously, he got away with just a few bruises. But I shudder to think of what would have happened if one of our babies had been with him. Tucker and sons, the fabricator of the majority of docks on the lake, told us that they have seen a significant increase in broken docks over the last few years.

Last year, on a particularly active day, where there was surfing morning till night, the large dock fender that protect our boat just popped. You can't imagine it until you see it.

Almost as important is the fact that we can no longer easily or safely board our boat with our little ones or our older relatives when there are wake boats surfing in the bay. The instability between the dock and the boat is great when the wakes hit the dock and sea wall.

4. More often than any other craft, wake surfers come within 100' of our shoreline. It makes their threat to our safety and property even greater.

Please consider the following, the bay is the narrowest part of the lake. It can not handle the amount of wake surfing traffic that has become the norm. There is virtually no policing of these boats or the noise pollution that they also create. Even if there was a law stating that you could not create a wake within 300' of the shoreline, it would be impossible to police and enforce. Therefore, we respectfully request, that you ban wake surfing from new Milford bay. Lake Waramaug has successfully banned them as have many lakes throughout the country. The bay can not remain a safe place for families so long as wakesurfing is allowed to continue.

Thank you for your time.

Leticia Atieh

From: Karee Hanifan Auth <kareehanifan@mac.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:48 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear DEEP Department of Boating,

I am writing to state my concerns about the recent ban of wake surfing at Lake Waramaug. I have been a homeowner and resident of Washington and Lake Waramaug for 20 years. My family engages in a variety of non-motorized activities as well as all motorboat activities on the Lake. I wanted to simply state that I believe that the approach to controlling recreational activities on Lake Waramaug and specifically the ban of wake surfing, either goes too far or does not go far enough.

It goes too far, because the wakes created by wake surfing, wake-boarding, skiing, fishing, tubing and even simply cruising in large boats, are all essentially the same. To target one activity goes too far, because it unfairly treats one specific use that has an impact that is only marginally different from other motorized activities.

Alternatively, if we as a community are going to limit motorized activity because of concerns relating to wakes, and because the wakes are only marginally different across activities, the regulations should go farther and should ban all motorized activities on Lake Waramaug. In this case, the current ban does not go far enough.

An arbitrary approach to limiting one activity is not the right approach in my opinion. I think we should consider going all the way to a complete ban on motorboats, or we allow motorboats and be honest about the very similar impact of all wakes regardless of the activity that produces the wake.

Thank you,
Karee Hanifan

From: Pat Smith <psmith@standardvaluation.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:51 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Cc: Matt Smith <msmith@standardvaluation.com>; maggie smith <md.smith811@gmail.com>;
rpdelaney@hotmai.com; Kenny Colucci <kencolucci@msn.com>; Samantha Smith
<samanthasmith1029@gmail.com>; bjorgvin@igl.is
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP,

As a Connecticut resident and lifelong visitor to Highland Lake in Winsted, I am writing to express my strong support for allowing wake surfing to continue on Highland Lake and across the state. My family and I have spent countless hours on Highland Lake over the years, enjoying water sports that bring our community together. Wake surfing, in particular, has become an important part of our shared experience on the lake. It not only fosters family recreation and healthy outdoor activity but also supports local marinas, small businesses, and seasonal jobs in the surrounding area. Equally important, those of us who live on or near the lake care deeply about protecting its natural environment. We recognize the importance of responsible boating practices, and we believe wake surfing can coexist with environmental protection through education, science-based guidelines, and enforcement of reasonable standards.

I urge DEEP to adopt a streamlined, statewide policy for wake surfing that is based on scientific data and best practices, rather than allowing a patchwork of inconsistent municipal regulations. Local bans and restrictions risk creating confusion and unfairly limiting access to a recreational activity that so many responsible Connecticut residents value.

Highland Lake is a special place — one that demonstrates how recreation and stewardship can work hand in hand. I encourage DEEP to ensure that wake surfing continues to be part of that balance for years to come.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspectives of residents who care deeply about both the health of our lakes and the traditions that bring us together on them.

Respectfully,

Patrick Smith
Highland Lake
Winsted, CT
Patrick J. Smith

From: Ellen Young <eby52260@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:12 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello:

My husband and I live in Brookfield on Lake Lillinonah. We enjoy kayaking, water skiing and using jet skis on the lake.

Over the past few years we've noticed a big up tick in wake surfing. As you know these boats create large waves which make it difficult to kayak or use paddle boards. Even more concerning is the effect the waves have on stone walls and other waterfront materials. It is damaging the walls causing additional expense to home owners. I have also heard from a friend that the waves split her dock in half. Finally we also understand that wake surfing has a negative impact on aquatic life.

We would like to suggest that wakeboards be restricted to areas where there are no homes such as down by the Shepaug Dam and possibly below Lovers Leap (past the houses there). This will alleviate damage to a lot of the waterfront and limit environmental impact.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Ellen and Vinny Young
18 Lillinonah

From: abcdmartin <abcdmartin@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:22 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for initiating this very important study. I live on Highland Lake year round since 2020 and have been enjoying the lake for over 25 years. We've been enjoying swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding and boating on the lake for many years. Within the last 3-5 years, we've been extremely concerned about the enormous waves generated by the wake surfing boats. They make it almost impossible to feel safe swimming or kayaking during peak times in the summer. Our dock and boat tied to the dock continuously gets slammed by these enormous waves and there is increased pressure from the waves against our properties stone and cement wall.

Our concern is the number of boats on the lake at anyone time has seemed to increase and the size of these wake boats appear to often violate the maximum length allowed on the lake. Also, Highland lake is a long but narrow lake that does not make sense for this type of activity.

I have read several studies including a Canadian Study called the Project Evaluation of the Impact of Waves Created by Wake Boats on the shores of Lakes Memphremagog and Lovering written in 2014. The objective of the study was to develop a scientific framework to validate the existence, extent and terms of the impacts of oversized wake boats generate by the lake environment in Quebec.

The main research results in the study included that all wake boat passages induce a significant increase in energy contained in the waves before reaching the shore, on average by a factor of 4 and the wake boat passages have a greater impact on the shores with a slope accentuated than those with a gentle slope. The majority of the shores on Highland lake are not gentle but are vertical stone or cement walls. The study's data demonstrated that the energy produced by the wake boat dissipates completely before reaching the banks when the passages of wake boats occur 300 meters or more from shore. Clearly, Highland lake is not wide enough at any point for these waves to dissipate. The findings of the study was to suggest that the regulation limits passage of such vessels on the lakes wake boats could travel of at least 300 meters from the banks in order to prevent erosion.

Another study from the University of Minnesota also found that wakesurf boats create larger waves that require greater distances from shore to mitigate their environmental impact, highlighting concerns about shoreline erosion and water quality. Similar to the Canadian study, their findings concluded that wakesurf boats need t operate at least 500 feet from the shoreline and operate in 20 feet or deeper of water to protect sensitive lake ecosystems and maintain water quality.

Thank you for taking the time to initiate this study. Highland lake has been know for its water quality and we want to make sure it's stays that way!

Betty Martin

From: Nancy Bordick <Nancy_bordick@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:27 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,

I am resident of East Haddam, a boat owner and live on Bashan Lake. I am also a Chemical and Environment Engineer with a dual degree in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University. I worked as an environmental engineer for a decade, and I have done research on movement of particles in riverbeds. I understand the movement of fluids, the impact to the environment and the implications of policy deployment. It's important that we study this topic, reference research, do studies and use statistical evidence to make policy decisions. We have to determine if implementing policy is affordable and a priority for the limited resources of our towns and state. It is imprudent to add cost and burden to our resources for a problem that has not yet occurred and will likely never occur especially when there are alternatives to be implemented.

I am a lake resident, an avid outdoorsman, and love water sports. I boat, water ski, wakeboard, wakesurf, jetski, paddle board, sail, kayak and swim. I do not support a ban on any of these activities. I request you pause / rescind all DEEP actions/ approvals on local and state ordinances on this topic until a complete study has been conducted by the DEEP and state legislatures. I do support uniform policy across all Connecticut water's that allow wakesurfing to continue and is based on sound science.

With all concerns you need to develop a sound and clear problem statement and action. I suggest the following:

Problem Statement:

Concerns have been raised by citizens who support wakesports that policies that restrict/ ban wakesurfing are being passed without weighing the results of research utilizing the scientific method or Environmental Impact Studies conducted on CT waterways. These policies are causing personal and business economic harm as well as adding unnecessary financial burden to towns & states to regulate. These policies are unnecessarily restrictive to the residents of CT. Additionally, concerns have been raised surrounding the environmental impact and safety of wakesurfing on Connecticut waterways inclusive of impact to the shoreline, lakebed and impact to property.

Action:

Studies have been conducted across the USA to evaluate impact; many states have developed policies that allow for wakesurfing that balance both the concerns of all parties while maintaining no impact to the environment. These studies and policies need to be researched by the DEEP and applied to the waterways of Connecticut using proper science and reason. The State of Connecticut, through the DEEP and state legislature, would create a uniform policy to deploy across the waterways of CT.

The scope of your study should incorporate feedback and concerns of all people from the state and weigh these concerns not based on volume of concerns by the merit of them. There is a very small population of wakesurfers in the state and a lot of misunderstanding about the activity and the methods used to wakesurf. This misinformation and misunderstanding needs to be countered with science and evidence.

Key Points to consider in the scope of the study

- 1. Utilization of state waters for recreation activities has been created for the state and should not unnecessarily be restricted based on hearsay and biased evaluations.**
- 2. Economic impact to businesses and residents need to be considered. The marine industry is a large source of revenue to the state and towns. Restricting certain boats or limiting their usage will impact business. Residents that own these boats will find their property unnecessarily devalued. This will impact towns and the state.**
- 3. Waves of varying height are created by many boats and PWC. Wave height is influenced by weight, displacement, hull shape, boat/ PWC utilization, speed, depth of the water and the track of the boat/ PWC (eg. tight circles or figure eights). All boats/ PWC have to be considered not just one activity or one boat. To single out policy or legislation on one activity would be unnecessarily restrictive.**

On Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir, there are a lot of boats that can make a large wave. To single out a boat while wakesurfing ignores all the wakes that are made by a variety of boats:

- 1. Most boats that are doing watersports make a wake. The wakesurfer is among many activities that create large waves; tubing, wakeboarding, knee boarding and wakesurfing all want a larger wave. Each of these activities can and do make similar size wakes.**
- 2. Jet ski and wave runners can create a large wake in their circular maneuvers**
- 3. Boats cruising at a speed just below planing or large cutty cabin boats create a huge wake. And they have no restrictions on distance from shore**

Let me transition to research on wave height from a wakesurf boat. In a study by Clifford Goudey and Lewis Girod in Nov 2015, a Nautique G-23 wake sport boat (similar to the boats used on Bashan Lake) was tested for wave height at varying distances from the boat (10', 110", 210'). The test compared boats at different speeds and in different depths. The results showed wave heights from wakesurfing drops from 26 inch to 14 inch within 250 ft. A one foot wave is the same wave height that the boat would have at cruising speed at 50 ft from shore. The impact of the wake from wakesurfing dissipates in 200 feet. There are many studies on wave dissipation. This is well understood and has been studied for decades

Impact of wave height from boats / PWC can be solved with distance guidelines for boaters (200 ft).

- 4. Shoreline Erosion / should be considered as part of the scope of the study and the impacts of waves (either from wind or boats/PWC)**

Wind has significant erosion based on its' sustained nature. Sustained wind over distance will build energy in the waves and lead to substantial impact on the shoreline and the bottom of the waterway. I live on the northwest end of Bashan lake in Brooks Cove, the prevailing wind comes across the lake towards us. And during storms and high winds, the waves get large and break over the dock and walls. This is the largest impact on docks and shoreline erosion.

Studies show that the waves caused by a 10 mph wind over 1 mile stretch (about the length of the Bashan lake) would equate to a wakesurf boat passing every 4.5 mins. The erosion impact from the wind dwarfs the impact from any boating wake. You could never show evidence that a boat wave is the cause of beach erosion, the weather impacts are too constant and intermingled.

Impact of shoreline erosion from boats / PWC can be solved with distance guidelines for boaters (eg 200 ft)

- 5. Impact to the lake ecology and lakebed should be evaluated based on studies that compare both lakebed disruptions with actual sustained adverse impacts through the seasons and compared to naturally occurring changes. Test plans need to be robust, include a wide range of boats/ PWC and have a control population of an average boat on a lake. Many studies are biased between boats that are extremely different and do not represent the average boat on any given lake.**

As with wave height, when you consider damage to the bottom of the lake you need to consider all boats that cause damage. As an example in Brook Cove, there is a sand bar that is roughly 4 ft deep that extends across the mouth of the cove. Every type of boat goes at high speed over this shallow area. Fishing boats accelerate on this spit, jet skis and tubers alike, all ride over this area when they are not on plane putting the prop of their boat inches from the lake bottom. If we are worried about the lake bottom, we need to be worried about the impact of all boats that cause this. And there are far more boats that move in the shallows of the lake than any amount of wakesurf boats. Additionally, the state needs to conduct an Environmental Impact statement that shows evidence of a problem of damage caused. If we are going to enact policy and use town resources to enforce, we must substantiate that a problem exists using proper impact methods. If a proper EIS is not conducted we are irresponsibly creating policy and applying state resources.

Once again, there are a number of studies that outline the impact of wakesurfing on the bottom of the lake. In a study from 2022 by Fay, Gunderson and Anderson in the Journal of Water Resource and Protection (SCIRP.org), the results proved that operating a wakesurf boat 200 ft from shore and in at least 10 ft of water, the environmental impact is minimal.

In this study, in section 6, they used CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) to model both wave height and impact of mixing below the surface. When evaluating the impact below the surface, the researchers accounted for the speed of the boat (12mph) thrust (1290 lbf) and pitch of the prop. The analysis shows prop wash does not travel toward the bottom but flows directly behind the boat. The prop wash reaches 7.5ft below the surface. Thus setting a limit of 10 ft of water is sufficient to wakesurf without causing damage.

When you step back and consider the concern on Bashan Lake regarding potential damage to the bottom of the lake, it is completely undermined with the lake being drained 3 feet every year. The bottom of the lake is exposed, and the ecosystem is destroyed by the freezing temperatures every year. At the same time in Moodus Reservoir, there is a machine that rips up the weeds from the bottom. This clearly disrupts the sedimentary layer. You can't have an argument that states on one hand you are worried about the ecology and on the other hand are destroying it. Our state policies need to be based on sound logic that our actions don't contradict.

Impact of lakebed from boats / PWC can be solved with depth guidelines for boaters (eg 10ft)

On Bashan lake there are 3 boats that wakesurf. Through the summer season we wakesurf 1-2 times a week depending on weather. A wakesurfer rides for about 5-10 mins. That's about 2 hours a week for 3 months, 24 hrs a year. Wakesurfers don't ride when the lake is crowded nor ride at the same time. The impact from wakesurfing on Bashan Lake is nonexistent.

All of these potential problems can be solved with simple guidelines

Wave height is solved with distance (200 ft)

Shoreline erosion is solved with distance (200 ft)

Damage to the lake bottom is solved with depth (10 ft)

My plea to the DEEP is to look at a wide variety of research, evaluate what other states have already implemented, and, if you deem this issue a priority, add uniform policy that is based in science implementing setbacks from the shoreline and depth. Don't ban activities based on what if's that will impact generations to come.

I'd like to end with a personal story. I learned to water ski when I was 5, I was a tiny kid, and my brother went underwater to hold the adult sized Connelly skis together, so I could lift out of the water. From that point I was hooked. It was a sport that gave me pure joy. About 6 years ago, I thought this was over. I had debilitating back pain and was unable to walk more than 100 ft without extreme pain. The chronic pain continued for over 6 months. Finally, my doctor agreed to

perform a microdisctomy on my L4/ L5. I had thought that not only would water skiing be gone, but my entire lifestyle of being outdoors was gone forever. Thankfully, after the surgery, my back was completely healed. But this surgery gave me a glimpse at the future. I would not be able to ski my whole life. I found wakesurfing. It is easy on your body, it's easy to learn and maneuver. I found a sport that would extend into my later life and keep me healthy and joyful. This is a family activity and one that we share with our friends. It brings people together, builds confidence, and keeps us all healthy. This is not just my story, but many.

Many of the people on my lake grew up loving water skiing. My guess is they would love to get out there again. Being behind the boat for many lake residents is where we wish we could spend all our time. Wakesurfing is a way that we can extend that experience a few more years, keep that joy. It's a relatively new activity for some, and some people don't like new things. We need to educate people on the safety of wakesurfing, create prudent guidelines and be respectful of each other on the lakes in this state. Do proper research to create a compromise for all those that use the lakes of this state.

Regards,

Nancy Bordick

20 Bailey Rd

East Haddam, CT 06423

From: Tim <shadow13999@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:09 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

As an avid fisherman and boater for 20 years,I can't tell you how many times I've almost been thrown overboard due to a wake from a wake boat. The wakes they cause are dangerous especially to smaller vessels and the kayaks. I've had water come over my bow and completely soak my boat from my boat going up so high and crashing down due to their wakes. Also, equipment being damaged from the boat crashing down hard. Not to mention how the wakes pushes your vessel closer to shore or to hazard areas so when you're already fishing close to shore or hazard areas,a wake that size comes in and pushes you even closer risking damage to your vessel and or persons. Talk about nerve racking.

I think Lake Waramaug got it right banning wake boats. I was out there recently and it was so nice knowing I didn't have to worry about being "swamped" by a wake boat wave.

Candlewood lake is horrible with the wake boats and every day traffic. So mix in the wakes from regular boats and then a wake from a wake boat,there's a reason most guys only fish in the mornings before the crazy's come out.

I wouldn't even think about staying on that lake past noon on the weekends in fear of wakes and as a local,it's sad that wake boats keep people from enjoying their hobbies as well.

Thank you for your time reading this and conducting this study.

Tim Dudas

From: Christina Fluckiger <cmfluckiger@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:13 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.
See attached comments.

Thank you
Christina Fluckiger



DEEP WAKE BOAT &
WAKESURF STUDY C

From: Matt Smith <msmith@standardvaluation.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:31 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Matt Smith <msmith@sdnyrealty.com>; Samantha Smith <Samanthasmith1029@gmail.com>;

Pat Smith <psmith@standardvaluation.com>; Ken Colucci <kencolucci@msn.com>;

maggiedelaney81194@gmail.com; Robert Delaney <Rpdelaneysr@hotmail.com>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP,

I am a Connecticut resident, living on Highland Lake for the last 62 years, water sports and wake surfing have been a very important part of our family's life. The environment is very important to us; we look after and take care of the lake. The use of the lake to take our family skiing and wake surfing is a very important aspect of our enjoy of our beautiful lake.

I believe the use of wake surfing should continue on Highland Lake!

We need a streamline state policy that allows the use of wake surfing to continue. we need a commonsense approach that will allow us to protect the lake and allow it to be enjoyed and used for wake surfers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Smith
662 East Wakefield Blvd,
Winsted, CT 06098
"Highland Lake"

From: Lee Gatts <lee@wsia.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:34 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

On behalf of the the Water Sports Industry Association, please see the attached comments regarding the "Connecticut Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study."

Thank you,

--

Lee Gatts

Vice President, Government Affairs

Water Sports Industry Association

Cell: 931.267.0673

Lee@wsia.net | www.wsia.net



2025.10.20 LG to CT
Study Comments.pdf

From: Sheila Harley Simonian <sheila@simoniannyc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:35 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Sheila Harley
Warren,CT
sheila@simoniannyc.com

Sheila Harley
Sharley@familycentral.info
646 202 3506
FamilyCentral.info

From: Ken Colucci <kencolucci@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:37 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP,

I am a resident of Highland Lake for the last 45 years, water sports and wake surfing have been a very important part of our family's life. The environment is very important to us; we look after and take care of the lake. The use of the lake to take our family skiing and wake surfing is a very important aspect of our enjoy of our beautiful lake.

I believe the use of wake surfing should continue on Highland Lake!

We need a streamline state policy that allows the use of wake surfing to continue. we need a commonsense approach that will allow us to protect the lake and allow it to be enjoyed and used for wake surfers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Colucci
668 East Wakefield Blvd,
Winsted, CT 06098
"Highland Lake"

From: GB <gb07079@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:00 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake boat & wakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

One more note that I think is important for policy makers to understand - we're not talking about boats used to tow kids around a lake in a tube. Nor are we talking about typical waterski boats that are generally designed to have as small of a wake as possible. Wake boats are purpose built to create the biggest wake possible. These boats have holding tanks to pump on board several thousand pounds of water weight. This sinks the rear of the boat into the water to throw a wake big enough to surf behind; literally surf, without needing a rope to tow the surfer.

Thanks for considering regulating this dangerous activity.
-gb

On Oct 22, 2025, at 12:37 AM, GB <gb07079@yahoo.com> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I spend hundreds of hours each year on Candlewood Lake, whether fishing from my deep V-hull fishing boat, kayaking, swimming, or generally enjoying the lake from our pontoon boat. At least once per outing I find myself looking at a wake boat and asking myself, "How can those things be legal?"

Every dangerous experience I've had on the lake has been the direct result of a wake boat; I've had my boat get swamped, I've almost been knocked out of my boat, I've seen kayaks get flipped, and our docked has been ripped from our seawall. To be clear, most of these instances are not one offs, and they are not the result of a people operating a boat dangerously, they are the result of people operating a dangerous boat.

These boats throw a wake several feet high, that can impact boaters, shorelines, and properties hundreds, perhaps thousands, of feet away. It was drilled into my head during my boaters' safety class that captains are responsible for any damage caused by their wake. How, then, can a boat whose sole purpose is to generate an enormous, damaging wake be legal?

Anyone who has spent time on Candlewood Lake knows that these boats are a nuisance. We know they are dangerous. And now, thanks to the recent University of Minnesota study, we know they also cause significant environmental damage to lake bottoms and shorelines.

I urge DEEP to reconsider allowing wake boats to continue to damage our property, endanger other boaters, and destroy our lakes.

Thank you.
-gb

From: telamonte@charter.net <telamonte@charter.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:01 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

The wake boat traffic with their associated massive wakes has caused damage to the natural shoreline as well as man-made shoreline improvements on Candlewood Lake.

A prohibition of boats greater than 25' was enacted years ago to mitigate such damage, a similar restriction of wake boats needs to be enacted.

At a minimum, wakesurfing zones should be established in areas where the least damage would result from large wakes (e.g. areas with very wide expansive open water).

Thank you,

Thomas LaMonte

From: Ellen Babcock <ellenbabcock@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:16 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: WAKE BOAT & WAKE SURF STUDY



WAKE BOAT AND
WAKE SURF COMME

From: Anne Castine <castine6@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:43 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

To Whom It May Concern at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you to strongly encourage you to implement statewide regulations on wake surfing. Wake boats are critical to our marinas and the local jobs that they support. Currently, municipalities are considering enacting an arbitrary hodgepodge of restrictions, including outright bans.

From a policy standpoint, this makes no sense. Connecticut should not have different regulations regarding wake surfing across different towns.

Most importantly, these regulations have economic ramifications for the marina at which I'm employed. Demand for wake boats is soaring. My job depends on ensuring wake boats, in wake mode, continue to be legal across the state.

Regulations should be rooted in science, balancing recreational imperatives with environmental protection. There are several important considerations that should be made as you undertake this study.

We need reasonable statewide regulations. It makes no sense to have disparate rules around wake surfing in different towns. I am in support of a common statewide regulation across Connecticut's waterways that ensures our state remains a desirable tourist destination.

Over-restrictive regulations could be extremely damaging. There are people, families, and towns that depend on our ability to sell these boats to consumers. It is critical to remember that behind every regulation, there are residents – like me – who are impacted. We just want to help our families get by and make ends meet.

When it comes to wake surfing, distortions abound. Regulations that have occurred so far have been based on falsehoods and fear-mongering. We know that the science shows that when done at the right distance from shore, wake surfing is not only safe, but also has minimal environmental impact.

Restrictions on wake surfing will be easily implemented and enforceable. We are proud of the role we play in instructing boat owners to operate safely and respectfully and in compliance with Connecticut's restrictions on speed and distance from shore. Adding further restrictions on wake surfing would fit easily in our existing educational program and be as readily enforceable as existing distance restrictions on other sports.

I believe deeply in protecting our waterways from an environmental standpoint. But I also believe in science. The science shows that this is a safe activity, and should be regulated as such.

Together, we must preserve the integrity of our waterways, the interests of individuals to pursue the recreation of their choice, and businesses like ours that depend on this activity. I urge you to implement a balanced approach that prevents municipalities from creating arbitrary policies.

Sincerely,

Anne
Greenwich,CT
castine6@aol.com

From: Jack Bordick <jack.bordick@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:56 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,
Jack Bordick

From: Daniel Watson <wtsndan@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:28 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

We drift fish out of an aluminum size boat in the saltwater. Not knowing anything about wake boats and the wakes they generate, my main concern is getting swamped or severely jostled by a wave boat passing nearby, or by a rouge wave caused by an existing wave being amplified to threatening heights.

From: Bart Osman <bdosman@lexpartners.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:33 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bart
Greenwich,CT
osmanbk@gmail.com

From: Isabelle Mann <izzy416@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:00 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Isabelle Mann, and I am a home owner in the Lake Waramaug community.

Lake Waramaug has always been an incredibly special place for me and my family. We come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and enjoy the lake. We paddle, swim, float, water ski and so, adore our time wake surfing.

Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote uninformed bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug. We should not have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

This issue has impacted me firsthand. Certainly as a boat owner, but mostly in that my family, friends, and community derive such great enjoyment from this activity— and I feel that our rights are not being heard to allow us to continue enjoying this memory bonding time together.

As a supporter of the environment, and of course the health of our beloved lake, my family and all that are advocating for wake surfing to continue on Lake Waramaug are willing to practice in the areas that are deep enough to do so.

I am also a believer of science and facts, AND of the State stepping in so that local towns do not implement a hodgepodge of varying regulations that are not informed by science or facts. We need a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy this safe and fun activity which brings us all together.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to science-based management of Connecticut's public waters. It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure that people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Respectfully,
Isabelle Mann
Warren, CT

From: Maddie Kumm <kummaddie@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:47 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Madeline
East Haddam, CT
kummaddie@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jake Henning <jhenning16@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:50 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: Brenna Colucci <bkc123.5@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:54 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

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That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brenna Colucci
Winsted,CT

bkc123.5@gmail.com

From: ALICIA SALZER <salzermd@me.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:09 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboat and wake surf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to voice, my concerns about the presence and impact of wake boats, based on my personal experiences on the lake where I own a home, Highland Lake, in Winsted Connecticut.

On the one hand, a lake is a recreational place and many people enjoy the activities associated with wake boats. On the other hand, whenever we engage in an activity that causes damage to other's property, causes our neighbors to have to spend \$ on sock and boat repairs, puts neighbors at risk, and changes the way others are free to recreate on the lake, we have to ask ourselves if our own enjoyment is worth the toll it is taking on others.

My concerns about wake boats fall into two categories:

1. impact on and danger to swimmers and those who want to be in the water.
2. Damage to docks boats and mooring apparatuses, the danger that results when these are broken, and the expenses to repeatedly repair them.

WAKEBOATS CANT SEE PEOPLE IN THE WATER IN FRONT OF THEM

I'm a long-distance swimmer who swims nearly daily. I'm also a physician, and I will never forget one of the first trauma cases that I witnessed, a woman who had been swimming who was involved in a boating accident in which the propeller essentially opened her abdomen. It was clear as we gathered around this young, still conscious, terrified young woman that there was absolutely nothing we could do to save her life. Her injuries were simply too extensive. Trust me, I am sparing you the gruesome details, but suffice it to say that propellers do the kind of damage that can not be undone.

Having witnessed something like that, no one, even an avid wakeboarder, would ever think it is a good idea to have wake boats in an area where people also swim.

Part of the issue with wake boats is the nature of these boats is that the bow tips up and the person who is driving cannot see what is directly in front of his boat. I know this because I am frequently in the water when a wake boat is approaching but still quite far away and I can not see the captain of the boat. The problem only gets worse as the boat approaches.

EXAMPLES OF DANGEROUS SITUATIONS I ENCOUNTERED AS A SWIMMER WITH WAKEBOATS

To increase visibility I always swim with a Swim Buoy which is essentially a large bright colored inflatable beach ball tied around my waist which floats close by. It's annoying and it tangles in your legs, but it's a small price to pay if it means someone sees me in the water who otherwise wouldn't have.

But despite wearing this, I have had three incidents in the past three years on Highland Lake where a wake boat was coming straight at me and simply did not see me in the water.

I cannot tell you how terrifying it is when despite my screaming over the roar of the motor, the boater is not looking my way and does not see that I'm in the water. The boat is approaching at high speed and all I can do is try to estimate its trajectory and swim in a direction that puts me out of its course.

WAKEBOAT DRIVERS AREN'T BEING RECKLESS, THEY JUST CAN'T SEE OVER THEIR BOW AND CAN'T HEAR OVER THEIR ENGINES, THIS IS WHY WAKEBOATS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED IN AREAS WHERE HUMANS ARE IN THE WATER.

On these occasions, the driver of the boat, when they eventually saw me, was incredibly alarmed themselves! One of them turned so abruptly away from me that the tube that they were towing swung out towards me and almost hit me. Towables behind boat can go 30mph and there is no way as a swimmer that you can out-swim them. The captain may think they are turning far from you, but when the towable swings out the length of the 40' towline, that towable comes at you FAST.

On another occasion, a woman on a jet ski was going parallel to the shoreline and was obviously interested in admiring the houses but was not looking in front of her. I saw her coming from far away and I could see she was headed towards me but looking at the houses. I splashed and yelled and waved my arms. But she didn't see me. I tried to predict where she was going to be headed once she reached me so I could try to swim to a safe place but I was only about 5 feet from her when she whizzed past. She screamed an expletive when her jet ski passed a few feet away from me. She was horrified and apologized yelling I didn't SEE you! That's right! She didn't see me. Because people are going fast and looking elsewhere. And this is despite Swimming with a buoy, screaming and splashing etc.

TRYING TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WAKEBOATS WHILE SWIMMING IS VERY DISRUPTIVE TO THE ACTUAL ACT OF SWIMMING

My point is that these close calls are not rare. And they do not make for a enjoyable lake experience for those who want to swim.

One is constantly stopping their swim to look around and if I see a boat even far away I don't dare resume swimming until I see the captain has seen me.

AT HIGHLAND LAKE, THOSE OF US WITH BOATS OFTEN GO TO A PARTICULAR COVE DURING WEEKENDS SEEKING QUIETER WATERS, BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS A BOAT TO ESCAPE THE INCESSANT WAVES THAT WAKEBOATS MAKE.

I also worry about the safety of kids who are swimming off of docks and waterfronts. Wakeboats want to make wide arcs, so they don't stay in the middle of the lake. I'm always telling my kids to stay close to the shoreline but you know how kids are. They don't like to feel the weeds that brush

their legs so they go deeper, and very few jet skis and wake boats are out as far as they are supposed to be.

IS A FUN ACTIVITY WORTH IT IF IT CAUSES FEAR, DANGER AND EXPENSE TO YOUR NEIGHBORS?

Make no mistake, my kids love the water sports associated with wakeboats. But at the end of the day I just don't think it's ok to enjoy a sport that puts others at risk and which results in real damage to property and significant expense to your neighbors.

My neighbors shouldn't have to spend their money repairing their docks and boats just because I want to have fun.

WAKEBOATS ARE CAUSING DAMAGE TO DOCKS AND BOATS WHICH IS EXPENSIVE TO REPAIR, ONLY TO HAVE IT OCCUR AGAIN AND AGAIN, NOT TO MENTION THAT ITS DANGEROUS WHEN A BOAT OR DOCK BREAKS LOOSE

Which leads to the other area of significant concern to me regarding wake boats : the damage that they continually do to the property of Lakefront homeowners.

Just this past summer, two of my neighbors in Third Bay in Highland Lake had their dock and or boat break loose because of big waves from wakeboats. When this happens, neighbors have to go out in other boats to try to capture the escaped boat and the dock before they crash into something and damage themselves or damage somebody else's property. Bringing a boat which is still attached to a dock back to shore is no easy undertaking and several households of neighbors have had to get involved.

For many people their lake house is a second home and they're only here on weekends. What would happen if you were not here when it occurred? Imagine the damage that could happen from a dock or boat or both, which have broken free and are bobbing in the waves. This kind of occurrence can't be rare if I saw it twice in one summer!

HAVING A BOAT LIFT WOULD HELP PROTECT YOUR BOAT FROM THE WAVES, BUT NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD IT AND MANY DON'T HAVE THE SPACE

Many homeowners try to mitigate the damage to their boats by having the boat on a lift. Because it is extremely difficult to secure your boat in the presence of wake boats without one. It is safe to say that if you don't have a lift, your boat and your dock will be pummeled every summer weekend.

But lifts are extremely expensive (new ones can be \$10k) plus the cost of installing and removing it, plus the survey and permit that are required. In addition to this expense, one needs ample enough waterfront to allow the lift to be far enough from your property line. Many of us don't have room for a lift or can't afford one. And in a lake this size we shouldn't have to. During the week, or after five on Sunday when we have "no wake quiet time", the boats are safely and peacefully secured., the docks are adequate and no damage is being done. But when wakeboats are out waves are

crashing over the docks, ramps and docks are jackknifing, metal is clanking and boats are being thrown around.

FIBERGLASS WHIPS CAN NOT WITHSTAND THE SIZE OF THE WAVES CREATED BY WAKEBOATS AND REPEATEDLY BREAK

What we do in the absence of a lift to prevent your boat from being damaged by incessantly crashing into your dock is to have fiberglass whips which hold the boat a distance from the dock.

I have two such whips which are 12' each and I can tell you that the extent of wave action in my lake in summer weekends exceeds the breaking point of my whips again and again.

Each summer my whips break about 3 times and I have learned to keep spares on hand because otherwise when a whip breaks it's a real emergency where there are crazy waves and there's no way to secure your boat.

At \$300 per whip, that means I'm spending \$1000 every summer for new whips to replace the ones damaged by the wakes. Of note, I have never broken a whip during a storm or during a weekday, it's always when it's a summer weekend and all the wakeboats are out. If we didn't have wake boats these whips would last for years.

THE WAVES ARE SO BIG AND RELENTLESS MY DOCK WELDS KEEP BREAKING

And it's not just the whips that have been damaged, due to the incessant jostling, my dock also breaks a few times a summer. Either the welds come loose on the brackets that attach my ramp to the float, or the bolts come loose from constant jostling. Bushings are destroyed and worn down.

WAVES FROM WAKEBOATS CAUSE A TON OF NOISE AS METAL SCAPES METAL AND DOCKS ARE BOUNCED AROUND

The racket of metal scraping against metal is so loud my neighbor can't nap in his lounge chair and he and I have brainstormed what to do to try to have some peace and quiet. But as long as there are wakeboats, metal will be ceaselessly clanking on metal, whips will be breaking and the waterfront will not be serene.

THERE IS SIGNIFICANT DANGER INVOLVED IN SECURING A DOCK THAT HAS BROKEN, A BOAT THAT HAS BROKEN FREE, OR A BOAT NO LONGER SECURED SAFELY WHEN A WHIP BREAKS.

But more important than the issue of serenity and peaceful enjoyment of the lake is the fact that it is extremely dangerous to try to secure one's dock when a piece of its attachment has broken off. The dock is now hanging by one attachment and people are trying to secure it WHILE being hit with repeated relentless waves.

My neighbors have lent a hand because no one person can manage this. One man runs for rope and bolts. Another two get in the water. Someone else attempts to secure it to the land while yet another person detaches the boat to decrease the strain on the system til things are safely secured. This is dangerous. An aluminum dock being tossed about in the waves could really hurt someone in the water trying to secure it or even hurt someone on land trying to reach between the moving

parts to reattach something that has come loose because all the while, the relentless waves from wakeboard and jet skis just keep coming.

I estimate my own costs of damage due to wakeboats and jet skis is about \$1000-1500/ year. But for my neighbor whose dock was so damaged it required a complete rebuild and whose boat was also damaged due to wakes, I'm sure her expenses were 10 times more than mine. I hope she also writes to share her experiences.

HAVING RULES AND ENFORCING THEM IS SIMPLY NOT WORKING

Of course you might think that a simple solution is to have rules, insisting that wakeboats stay a certain distance from the dock. We have such rules at our lake. They have not helped. People either don't know of these rules or choose not to follow them. And while we do sometimes have a police officer on our lake who is ticketing, he cannot be in all places at all times. For every person who gets a ticket there are so many more who are putting others at risk and whose behavior goes unchecked.

And frankly, even if wakeboats stayed the requisite 200' away from docks the lake simply isn't wide enough for the waves to dissipate before crashing on the shore.

I believe the numbers tell us the answer. For every person enjoying their wakeboat or jet ski, there are scores of others who can't safely swim, who decide not to go out on their kayak or paddle board because the lake has been made too rough by all the wakes, who will sustain expensive damage to their boat or dock, who simply can't relax on a float or bob in the water to cool off without being pummeled by waves. There is simply no way on a small to mid size lake, for wakeboats to share space and be good citizens without negatively affecting scores of people and countless properties.

If lakes are to be preserved for the safe enjoyment of all, a ban on wakeboats is the only solution.

Thank you for your time.

Alicia Salzer MD

From: Thomas Godward <tgodward@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:13 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP team ...

I grew up in Brookfield on Candlewood Lake and have recently re-settled in New Preston with a home on Lake Waramaug (we are in our 3rd year here). We owned lake property on Whitewater Lake in Southern Wisconsin for 17 years prior. Whitewater Lake is also an ~650 acre spring fed lake. For seven seasons as a teen and young adult I worked at Bullock Marine on Lake Candlewood (now Brookfield Bay Marina) serving the boating community, where I learned how to pilot and tow boats (all kinds) along with light mechanical and electrical work. I learned a lot about safety and boater awareness in those years. In the majority of my time on Whitewater Lake and now Lake Waramaug I have owned the same 20-foot inboard boat, which is a competition slalom ski boat with a rear engine, ballast tanks and tower. It is what the industry terms a “triathlon boat”, as it excels at slalom skiing, wakeboarding and wake surfing.

I want to first acknowledge this: Large wakes are a nuisance on these lakes. They were in Whitewater (recent proposed wake surfing ban rejected this summer) and they are here (recent proposed ban enacted). Large wakes—be it from wake surf boats, aggressive tubing, or even very heavy boats going at slow speeds—can be quite disruptive, dangerous to those with mobility issues on the docks, potentially dangerous to people on non-motorized craft and deck / pontoon boats, but mostly, they are just annoying. That said, nobody is going out on the lake to make large wakes for the purpose of endangering and annoying others; they simply do not see the impact of the activity or if they do, do not know how and when to pilot their boat to mitigate that impact. The phrase “never ascribe to malice what is better ascribed to ignorance” well applies to this situation.

It is both true and generally well understood that the wake boat industry is optimizing hull designs and producing larger, heavier vessels that create larger wakes. What appears to be far less well understood is the physics at play and how focusing on wake-enhancing devices misses the point. I will use my boat (2009 vintage) as comparison: 20 feet long; dry weight of 4000 lbs; max ballast weight is 1,150 lbs. A new wake boat (2026 vintage) such as the Nautique G23 is 23 feet long, has a dry weight of 6,300 lbs and holds 3,600 lbs of ballast. The G23 operating with no ballast (which is permissible under the current ban on wake-enhancing devices on Lake Waramaug) will put more energy into the water and therefore create a larger wake than my boat under full ballast cruising at the same speed. And any boat including non-wake boats loaded with passengers can create a similarly large wake. This is not a point of advocating for specific boats; it is advocating for applying basic Newtonian mechanics to setting policy. Physics doesn’t care if you are wake surfing or just cruising around at low speed. Physics cares about mass, velocity and hull configuration: policy needs to acknowledge and factor in these elements if the issue is truly large wakes.

A ban on wake surfing or use of enhanced-wake devices may seem like an easy and appealing way to get at the problem of eliminating large wakes; however, it does not and it creates more problems than it solves.

1. The ban will not achieve its aim and has the potential to make the situation worse. If the issue is large wakes then banning enhanced wake devices is ineffective to this end, arbitrary in its application, and creates the wrong incentives. A 6,000 lb boat with a half dozen adults in it is legal yet the same boat with one adult and 1,000 lbs of ballast is not, yet both weigh roughly the same amount. And a 4,000 lb boat fully loaded with ballast, now not legal, will never produce the size wake of a 6,000 lb boat with one adult driver (which is legal). The ban incentivizes people with smaller boats to trade up for larger ones, producing more large wakes (in all situations, not just wake surfing), making the large wake situation worse.
2. The ban is not enforceable as written. There is no way to tell externally if a boat is under ballast (you can visibly see the effect of a wake deflector but not the ballast), and it's not as though a specific sport, like wakeboarding or wake surfing, is banned. So under what basis will the local patrol (to be clear for Lake Waramaug, a civilian piloting a community owned boat with a state police officer on-board) have reason to stop a craft? And when they do stop the craft, what are they going to do? Instruct the pilot to hit the "empty ballast switches" to see if water comes out? How would an officer even know given the variety of boat designs, evolution of electronics over the past 20 years and the like if a pilot was even complying? Do we want our state police in this situation where they are policing a violation that is not visible from outside the boat? It is my understanding that the proposed ban on Whitewater Lake in WI was voted down on this point.
3. The ban puts our boaters and enforcement in dangerous situations. Based on 20+ years of piloting boats with tubers, skiers, surfers, wakeboarders and the like of different skills and at different times (e.g., empty lake vs. holiday weekends), pulling over a boat that is actively towing somebody is dangerous. It requires a high level of skill from the pilot of the enforcement boat (flashing lights and siren to notify the pilot of the boat being stopped to stop; the knowledge and piloting skill to approach the boat from the downwind side staying outside the turning radius of the boat being stopped; the patience to allow the boat being stopped to turn around, collect the people out of the water, and allow all ropes, equipment and people to be safely in the boat before approaching; the skill to approach the boat close enough to make the stop but far enough away to keep the boats from colliding, etc.). I have been stopped a handful of times over the past 20 years (never once doing anything unlawful) and the stop has always been the most dangerous activity on the lake that day for everyone involved. Given the general lack of understanding around wake-enhancing devices, I anticipate patrols will seek to pull over boaters engaged in wake surfing or wakeboarding regardless of whether they are using banned devices because it will be difficult if not impossible to tell. I cannot imagine why we'd implement a policy that puts both our residents and those with the difficult job of protecting us in unnecessarily dangerous situations by encouraging more frequent pull-overs related to lawful activity.

I realize towns have great leeway (as they should) in our federated system of governance to implement policies, whether thoughtful or misguided. What I do not understand is how it is in DEEP's best interest as the scientifically-driven administrator of our waterways to enable anyone to implement a policy that (1) is ineffective and whose practical application is arbitrary; (2) puts our law enforcement in situations where they have to enforce a rule with no visible signs of probable cause, and (3) puts our residents and law enforcement in unnecessarily dangerous situations. Only because it is the nature of these things, we should anticipate there will be an instance where a boat is stopped that is complying with the ban (i.e., wake surfing but not using ballasts) where their boat

is damaged in the stop and / or a boater gets hurt and / or the situation between a boater and state police officer escalates to something more out of sheer frustration. And that all ends up in court and it is in that situation where questions like “didn’t DEEP consider” are asked (I cannot imagine the disclaimer of enforcement in the DEEP approval will be helpful at this point).

Let me close with this. Bans are simply bad policy and while we have them all over the place, they only really work when the science is irrefutable and the implementation timeline is long (e.g., the hydrofluorocarbon ban which aims to reduce HFC globally by 85% by 2047). There are so many better ways to regulate wakes (e.g., limit boat sizes by size of lakes; limit operating hours on the lake; designate with buoys wake zones; tax boats by weight and size based on the lake they are on, etc.) that will better achieve the policy aims and require near zero enforcement, keeping both our residents and state police (who already have dangerous and difficult jobs) safe and out of harm’s way.

Respectfully,
Tom Godward
New Preston, CT

From: John Lochner <jmlochner2@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:21 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear CT DEEP:

Thank you for inviting public comments on the upcoming Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study.

We strongly encourage DEEP to prohibit wake surfing boats on all lakes in CT or, at a minimum, those that are 1,000 acres or less. The small lakes simply cannot handle the enormous waves generated; the large lakes probably don't fare much better.

The wave surge created by wake boats:

- is incredibly destructive to lake bottoms and the overall health and ecology of a lake. See University of MN study conducted on the 14,000-acre Lake Minnetonka.
- is damaging to lake owners real and personal property. It creates unnecessary erosion of one's shore front (in essence stealing one's land). It also damages docks and docked watercraft as seen in many instances around our lake (Highland Lake).
- presents significant risk of bodily harm. We've heard of several stories where anchored boaters have jumped in the water with their kids and grandkids and stayed swimming and floating within range of their boat only to have their boat's bow being sent many feet upward by wake surf boat waves and come pounding down to the surface, narrowly missing kids playing nearby.

Some have suggested requiring wake surfers to stay a certain distance from shore. On our lake, many (especially visiting) watercraft of all types, wake surfers boats included, ignore "rules of the water" and/or common sense distances from shore. For many such lakes, they are too small and there is no safe distance for wake surfing boats.

Further, in our experience, the smaller lakes lack the "on the water" enforcement resources. As such, for smaller lakes in particular, we recommend banning wake surfing altogether versus suggesting they stay a certain distance from shore. That approach would seem to be a touch easier to enforce, we hope.

Sincerely,

John and Valerie Lochner

539 Wheelers Point, Winsted, CT

860-977-5726

From: Bridget Greaney <bmgreaney@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:53 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bridget
Stamford ,CT
bmgreaney@gmail.com

From: Carroll, Jr. Jesse L. (Sam) <sam757780@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:41 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jesse L. "Sam" Carroll, and I was the 50% owner of the lake house at 284 West Shore Road, New Preston, CT, 06777, from March 1981 until September 2025. I sold my 50% interest in the lake house, including a 2013 Ski Nautique boat, suitable for wakeboarding and wake surfing, to my lake house partner of 44 years, Charles Eaton, on September 18, 2025.

Even though I no longer own a share of the lake house and Ski Nautique, I want to voice my concern about the actions taken this year by the towns of Kent, Warren, and Washington to abolish wake boats and wake surfing on Lake Waramaug. The ordinance that passed is draconian and unacceptable because there is no hard evidence that wake boats and wake surfing cause any harm to Lake Waramaug, and based on a 2024 survey of lake residents, wake boats are in use less than 4% of total boat operating hours. A more reasonable approach to the issue is common-sense statewide regulation, which I support.

Best regards,

Sam

From: William Kunin <Will@sageviewcapital.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:51 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

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While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Will

Stamford,CT

will@sageviewcapital.com

From: Stephanie Denya <sdenya1027@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:02 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Invitation for Written Comment

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see my attached letter. I will be delivering the letters that I mention to Old Lyme tomorrow as I am unable to scan them to you.

Thank you,

Stephanie Denya



DEEP Public
Comment on Wake I

From: Christopher Santucci <maducci.wine@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:14 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom It May Concern,

Please find the attached comments with regards to the "Wake Boat & Wakesurfing Study".



Wake Boating -
Wakesurfing CTDEE



Wake Boating -
Wakesurfing CTDEE

From: Russell Perregaux <russell_perregaux@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:12 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf study.

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern

As an avid wake boat and wakesurf enthusiast, I write to bring your attention to the environmental risks and the ways we can responsibly mitigate them. Research shows that when operated too close to shore or in shallow waters, wake-enhanced boats can stir up lake or riverbeds, resuspend sediments, release nutrients (such as phosphorus), erode shorelines, and harm aquatic vegetation and fish habitat. In contrast, studies using computational fluid dynamics have demonstrated that when wake surfing is conducted at least ~200 feet from shore in water depths of 10 feet or more, the effects on shorelines and bottom habitats become minimal.

I believe there is a balanced policy path that protects our environment without banning the sport altogether: by establishing setback distances, minimum depth requirements, and operator education.

Something else to consider is what wake boats bring to local boat shops and marinas. It is proven that wake boats bring in a significant amount of income for local boat servicing shops due to the fact that Wake boats cost more to service compared to you average outboard boat. There is more parts and fluids to service in wake boats. Wake boats use significantly more amount of fuel so the sales in gas at the local marinas would be taking a hit. So there will be a negative impact to all local boat shops and marinas if the wake boats were not allowed to be used in Connecticut waters. Also Connecticut is a popular place for tourism, wake boats offer a wide variety of fun water sport activities that will bring a positive impact to tourists while visiting our state.

I respectfully encourage your office to consider legislation supporting such “best practice” regulatory frameworks for wake boating and wakesurfing in our state’s waterways.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Russell Perregaux
860-806-0912
Torrington CT 06790

From: Joel Hawkins <jmh17931804@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:33 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP,

Please see the attached response from the Rogers Lake Authority to the Connecticut DEEP's request for public comment concerning Wake Boats and Wakesurfing.

Thank you,

Rogers Lake Authority

Joel Hawkins, member



Rogers Lake
Authority response

From: GB <gb07079@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:37 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat & wakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I spend hundreds of hours each year on Candlewood Lake, whether fishing from my deep V-hull fishing boat, kayaking, swimming, or generally enjoying the lake from our pontoon boat. At least once per outing I find myself looking at a wake boat and asking myself, "How can those things be legal?"

Every dangerous experience I've had on the lake has been the direct result of a wake boat; I've had my boat get swamped, I've almost been knocked out of my boat, I've seen kayaks get flipped, and our docked has been ripped from our seawall. To be clear, most of these instances are not one offs, and they are not the result of a people operating a boat dangerously, they are the result of people operating a dangerous boat.

These boats throw a wake several feet high, that can impact boaters, shorelines, and properties hundreds, perhaps thousands, of feet away. It was drilled into my head during my boaters' safety class that captains are responsible for any damage caused by their wake. How, then, can a boat whose sole purpose is to generate an enormous, damaging wake be legal?

Anyone who has spent time on Candlewood Lake knows that these boats are a nuisance. We know they are dangerous. And now, thanks to the recent University of Minnesota study, we know they also cause significant environmental damage to lake bottoms and shorelines.

I urge DEEP to reconsider allowing wake boats to continue to damage our property, endanger other boaters, and destroy our lakes.

Thank you.

-gb

From: Dean Nelson <Dean@sageviewcapital.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:53 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dean

Darien,CT

dean@sageviewcapital.com

From: Gerald Southergill <gsouthergill@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:05 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Gerald

Winsted,CT

gsouthergill@hotmail.com

From: Mark Simonian <mark@simoniannyc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:03 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Mark Simonian

Warren,CT

mark@simoniannyc.com

From: dmdenya1@comcast.net <dmdenya1@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:05 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Surfing on CT Lakes

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Extensive studies have shown that Connecticut Lakes are not large enough, or deep enough, to allow Wake Surfing and Wake Enhancement, without safety concerns for other boaters, and endangering freshwater lake ecosystems.

I have been on Bashan Lake, and observed the large waves created by just one boat in Wake Surf mode...creating problems using kayaks, paddle boards, swimmers, and causing damage to shoreline beaches and docks. As Wake Surfing is becoming more popular, allowing Wake Surfing on Connecticut Lakes will create more of these problems.

However....Our main concern is the environmental health of Connecticut's freshwater lakes.

Following is the damage this activity can have on the delicate ecosystem a lake:

Scouring the lake bed results in sediment suspension, reducing clarity.

Uproots plants resulting in the spread of invasive weeds.

Disturbs the lakes natural water stratification, impacting the distribution of available oxygen , resulting in increased algae growth.

Transportation of invasive weeds between water bodies via ballast tanks.

We believe if Wake Surfing is not stopped, the damage to Connecticut Lakes will be significant, lasting, and irreparable.

Thankyou,

Dave and Roberta Denya

From: Gerald Southergill <gsouthergill@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:57 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Fw: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My family has owned lakefront property on Highland Lake in Connecticut for three generations. We have wonderful memories of good times spent on the water.

Water skiing has been a wonderful sport that encourages physical fitness in the spirit of good competition. The sport has gone through many transitions over the years. I remember when Highland Lake had their own water skiing club complete with the slalom course and a ski jump. I had many opportunities to observe the competition and see the healthy family fun that was being provided.

As time has passed there is less and less activity in the strenuous part of the sport. There has been a transition to tubing and pontoon boats with less emphasis on the more physical activities that encouraged good physical conditioning and rewards for hours of practice. I enjoy seeing the families out there getting more physical with the wakeboarding and wake surfing. It's too bad that the few that disregard the rules that protect people's property and safety threatened to ruin the opportunity for responsible boat owners to continue participating in this healthy sporting activity that challenges the younger generation to raise to the challenge and excel in something that requires physical strength and conditioning.

Highland Lake implemented a quiet time on Sunday evenings after 5:00 so activities such as sailing and canoeing could be done peacefully during that no wake quiet time. Sadly, over the years, fewer and fewer people are taking advantage of this quiet time. We see very few sailboats, canoers and paddle boarders these days. It would be a shame to discourage another aspect of this healthy pastime by implementing unreasonable restrictions.

I strongly encourage DEEP to develop reasonable, statewide regulations to keep Connecticut's waterways safe while providing an opportunity for good clean family fun.

I would also encourage you to implement a prohibition on individual communities banning these activities.

Surely DEEP can identify restrictions that will protect the homeowners' waterfronts yet still allow for participating in this wonderful family activity. If the local communities begin to implement a mixture of strict regulations it will lead to a lot of confusion and conflict having different regulations for different bodies of water. If unreasonable limitations are placed on many of the lakes those who want to participate in these sports will be forced to travel to the areas with less regulations and lead to more crowded and unsafe conditions.

Thank you for your effort to become involved in this effort to develop reasonable regulations based on science and safety for everyone involved.

From: Linda Kowalski <LKowalski@consult-ct.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:10 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find attached comments concerning DEEP's Scope of Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study submitted on behalf of my client, the Connecticut Marine Trades Association, CMTA.

Please indicate receipt.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda

Attachment

Linda A. Kowalski
Rome Smith Kowalski
21 Oak Street, Suite 207
Hartford, CT 06106
Cell: 860-983-5730
LKowalski@consult-ct.com



10 20 2025 CMTA
wakesurfing comme

From: Noah Anderson <noaha2004@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:58 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: WAKEBOAT AND WAKESURF STUDY

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

From: Alecia DiCenso <alecia.dicenso@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:01 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,
Alecia

From: Conor Kennedy <kennedyconor7@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:03 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat & Wakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely, Conor Kennedy

From: Daisy Stuart <daisystuart0@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:37 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daisy
Warren,CT
daisystuart0@gmail.com

From: Michael Gershenson <michaelgershenson@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:18 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>; Kate Gershenson (Gmail) <kategershenson@gmail.com>; Michael Gershenson <michaelgershenson@hotmail.com>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Michael
New Preston, CT
michaelgershenson@hotmail.com

From: Claire Aube <claireaube321@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:33:05 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Claire

Kent,CT

claireaube321@gmail.com

From: C Perez <perezcandywinsted@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:08:33 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP,

From: Candy Perez, Highland Lake-Winsted, Credentials: Board of Selectmen, HLWA President, Waterskier & Resident since 1965

First, I recognize this is a difficult issue. So thank you for tackling it. :)

- Boat technology (weight, beam, ballast, etc) and sales of boats have advanced beyond the capacity of natural lakes. (see comments below on Malibu boats advertisement "ocean like waves" - not to mention the \$\$\$ made on these boats)
- Lakes are under environmental threat and can no longer tolerate or absorb this impact. (1st cyanobacteria major outbreak October 2024 HL) Damage to shorelines and docks are irrefutable today based on multiple studies (University of Minnesota)

The stirring of the bottom is shown in multiple studies (Lake Waramaug; University of Minnesota: etc)

- I request a statewide 300 ft from shore buffer regulation. (see Canadian 2014 study below... wakesurfing increases wave energy by factor of 4) Without a statewide regulation, lakes with no regulations will be inundated with wake boat traffic putting those lakes under more damage.

Personal Opinion & Experience

Being a waterskier since I was 7, I never fall - even to this day - with the exception of 2024 when I encountered a wake boat, ballast heavy wake in a narrow area of the lake.

In the early 1960's I watched people ski on canoe paddles and other home fashioned equipment. I watched skilled skiers at tournaments. Ski boats are made for small wakes. Wakesurfing is not historically important, just another in the latest line of recreation. One that comes from oceans.

All recreation activities are impacted by one or two wake boats on a lake. Not many other recreational activities can negate all the others like wake boats do.

Resources:

Project Evaluation of the Impact of Waves

*Created by Wake Boats on the Shores of the
Lakes Memphremagog and Lovering*

The main research results are:

- All wake boat passages induce a significant increase in energy contained in the waves before reaching the shore, on average by a factor of 4.
- The impact of wake boat passages is directly and inversely related to the distance between the passage and the shore.
- Of the three different types of waves generated by a wake boat, wake surfing waves are those that cause the greatest impact on their arrival to the shore (1.7 times higher than the waves of a boat moving normally).
- The wake boat passages have a greater impact on the shores with a slope accentuated than those with a gentle slope.
- Our data demonstrates that the energy produced by the wake boat dissipates completely before

reaching the banks (and therefore have no significant effect) when the passages of wake boats occur 300 meters or more from shore.

<https://gc.nh.gov/statstudcomm/committees/1434/documents/Impact%20of%20Waves%20Created%20by%20Wake%20Boats-%20Canada.pdf>

Malibu Boats Advertising: Even the wake boat industry's own advertising highlights the scale of the waves they produce. Malibu Boats, a prominent manufacturer, promotes their vessels as being able to generate "ocean-like waves," which directly supports the argument that these boats produce wakes far beyond what a typical recreational boat does. The company's marketing materials specifically use this description to sell their patented systems, underscoring the extraordinary size and power of the waves they're designed to create.

From: Jim Brinton <jbrinton@washingtonct.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:13:04 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Warren <selectman@warrenct.org>; Marty Lindenmayer <firstselectman@townofkentct.gov>;

Marty Lindenmayer - Kent (firstselectman@townofkentct.org) <firstselectman@townofkentct.org>

Subject: Testimony

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see attached. Thank you.

Jim

James L. Brinton

First Selectman

Town of Washington



Testimony.pdf

From: TheRENDERWOMAN <michelewytas@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:49:13 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michele
East Haddam, CT
michelewytas@gmail.com

--

Michele Wytas
Renderwoman
113 Lakeside Drive
East Haddam, CT 06423
860-917-2613

From: nate_8_it <nathanwytas@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:57:26 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Nathan
East Haddam,CT
nathanwytas@gmail.com

From: Lindsay Zaken <lbzaken@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:19:41 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Leadership,

Lake Waramaug has always been an incredibly special place for me. I come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and to go wake surfing — an activity that has become a sport for my daughter and is incredibly meaningful to her mental and physical health. There's nothing quite like the fresh lake air, exercise and feeling successful to fill a 16-year-old teenage girl's bucket in a healthy way.

Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and misinformation to promote unnecessary restrictions. Earlier this year, those efforts resulted in an outright ban on wake surfing at Lake Waramaug, despite a lack of scientific evidence showing that this safe recreational activity poses harm.

This decision has affected our family on many levels. As a boat owner, I invested significantly so that my family, friends, and community could enjoy this activity responsibly. Now, I can no longer use my boat for its intended purpose. My only options are to sell it—at a significant loss—or move it to another lake. Ironically, that move increases environmental risks, including the potential spread of invasive species between lakes, which can harm native ecosystems and degrade water quality. By banning wake surfing locally, officials may have unintentionally created greater ecological hazards. Local bans like this are misguided, inconsistent, and not grounded in science. I urge DEEP to remove the ability of individual towns to regulate wake surfing independently and instead establish a single, statewide policy that allows wake surfing to continue responsibly across Connecticut.

We need common—and common-sense—standards that are informed by data, environmental expertise, and fair access, rather than a confusing patchwork of town-by-town rules. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that brings people together, supports local economies, and strengthens our connection to the outdoors.

I care deeply about protecting Connecticut's waters. I also believe in ensuring that residents and visitors alike can enjoy their recreation of choice in a fair and sustainable way. Please act to create a smart, balanced, and statewide framework that safeguards both our environment and the right to enjoy it.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to sound environmental policy.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Zaken
New Preston, CT

From: Sam Romano <sromano@nmma.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:31:38 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) is respectfully submitting our comments for the record. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input, and please let me know if you have any trouble accessing the document.

Best Regards,

Sam



SAM ROMANO
Manager, Northeast Government Relations
o 202.737.9764 m 978.476.9594
e sromano@nmma.org



NMMA_Lake
Waramaug DEEP Stu

From: Karen Wood <kkwood1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:44:23 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake surfing

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs:

I write this letter to you as a concerned Connecticut resident with a family of three children. With friends, we have spent many wonderful weekends at Lake Waramug enjoying everything it has to offer. It has always been the wholesome family experience we all want our children to have and can't say enough about all the Lake has to offer. Those memories have always included safely going in their boat, with everyone following strict safety protocols and enjoying water sports, which has included waker surfing. One of the great aspects about wake surfing is it done close to the boat with limited impact on others. Our friends bought their boat to have it to use with family and friends to and enjoy all the lake has to offer. The investment was made into a boat and we were fortunate enough to be a part of their wonderful family experience.

Unfortunately, I was recently surprised and saddened to hear there was an effort in the Lake Warmup township to enact a regulation restricting wake surfing on the Lake. I was unaware there were any concerns in the Lake Waramug municipality and also that these effort's were JUST in the local area by a small group of special interests.. I would think these or any regulations should be enacted on a statewide level so there is consistency for CT residents and homeowners. I believe in supporting what's best of our environment and safety but we cannot have individual municipalities making their own guidelines so we end up with no cohesive statewide policy. I am not sure what the benefit of that approach would be but I clearly see the drawbacks of that strategy. We need common sense statewide guidelines to these considerations and regulations. It makes no sense to me that one town would have one set of regulations and the town next door would have another.

Connecticut has always been a supporter of the environment, which we wholeheartedly support, so I am surprised they have allowed "one-off" approaches to regulations for our waters sports. Ultimately, while we don't have a boat, it will have an economic impart of the local boat dealerships and families who have already made the investment in their boat. Of course, the impact of a hodgepodge approach is some lakes will become more crowded while other Lake residents feel the negative impact on their real estate values and local small businesses.

I am taking the time to write to you as I care deeply how we use our natural resources and that we take a more thoughtful, holistic approach to the common safety and economic impact on our lakes. We want these wonderful experiences to last for generations to come and without taking a well thought out approach, we become victims of special interests who might be representing their specific views and not what's best long term for the environment and our states public policy.

Sincerely,

Karen Wood

From: Louise Washer <lbwasher@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:16:46 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Comments on Wake Boat Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To DEEP Boating Division,

Please find attached comments from the Norwalk River Watershed Association.

Louise Washer, President NRWA



wake-boat
study.pdf

From: Denise Pratt <denisepratt1722@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:01:42 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>; Francis, Peter <Peter.Francis@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please find attached a 2014 study conducted on the impact of waves created by wake boats. It is my hope a study of Highland Lake can be conducted to help stop the damages and disruption caused by wake boat.

Thank you for your consideration.

[https://gc.nh.gov/statstudcomm/committees/1434/documents/Impact of Waves Created by Wake Boats- Canada.pdf](https://gc.nh.gov/statstudcomm/committees/1434/documents/Impact%20of%20Waves%20Created%20by%20Wake%20Boats-Canada.pdf)



WebPage.pdf

From: Mary Ann Marino <maryannmarinola@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:45 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakesurfing Regulations / Public Comments

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Mary Ann Marino, Winchester Resident, Highland Lake Property Owner

Re: Public Comments on Wakesurfing Activity Regulations for Highland Lake

Date: 20 October 2025

Dear CT DEEP,

I am writing to provide comments regarding wakesurfing regulations for Highland Lake in Winchester, Connecticut. Following the recent approval of the Lake Waramaug wakesurfing ban, I urge CT DEEP to consider the realities of Highland Lake based on the lake's physical characteristics, environmental vulnerability, and public safety concerns.

Highland Lake's narrow configuration and the recent emergence of cyanobacteria blooms make it fundamentally vulnerable to the environmental impacts of wakesurfing activities. Please consider the following comments regarding the scientific and practical bases for carefully and thoughtfully examining wakesurfing on this waterbody.

1. Wake Dissipation Distance: The Critical Limiting Factor

Scientific research establishes that wakesurfing requires 500–600 feet of dissipation distance in each direction from the vessel, totaling 1,000–1,200 feet of lake width for safe operation. This distance is necessary for attenuation of wave height, energy, and power to protect shorelines, structures, and other lake users (Turgeon et al., 2023; Dzięgielewski et al., 2021; Ellison & Lyn, 2020).

Highland Lake's dimensions make compliance impossible:

- Maximum lake width: 2,640 feet (0.5 miles) at the widest point in Third Bay (*for a short distance – only 0.5 miles*)
- Minimum lake width: ~200 feet at the narrowest point in Second Bay.
- Required dissipation width: 1,000–1,200 feet
- Remaining operational corridor: Only 1,440–1,640 feet at the absolute widest section for a distance of 0.05 miles.

The lake becomes significantly narrower in First Bay, Second Bay, and at two narrowing points between bays. Even at Highland Lake's widest point, there appears to be insufficient space for safe wake dissipation. In most areas, wakesurfing would be physically impossible to operate within safety margins.

2. Physical Constraints of Highland Lake

Highland Lake's elongated, narrow configuration presents insurmountable spatial constraints:

- Surface area: 445 acres
- Length: ~3 miles (15,840 feet) north–south
- Maximum width: 2,640 feet at widest point
- Minimum width: ~200 feet at the narrowest point
- Depth: Average 24 feet, maximum 63 feet in Second Bay
- Configuration: Three bays separated by narrow constrictions

(Source: Connecticut DEEP *Lake Bathymetry and Factsheet for Highland Lake*, 2023)

While Highland Lake meets the recommended 20-foot depth requirement in certain areas, depth is irrelevant without adequate dissipation distance. Wakes generated in deep water still require 500–600 feet laterally to dissipate before reaching shorelines, docks, and other users. Depth and dissipation distance must both be met to achieve safety and environmental protection standards.

3. Environmental Threat: Cyanobacteria and Water Quality Degradation

In fall 2024, Highland Lake experienced its first documented cyanobacteria bloom. The Town of Winchester issued public warnings on October 30, 2024, advising residents to avoid contact with affected areas and to keep pets and children out of the water (Town of Winchester Public Health Notice, 2024; CT DEEP Harmful Algal Bloom Reports, 2024).

Wakesurfing accelerates eutrophication through:

- Ballast tanks and wake-enhancing devices generating 3–4 foot artificial waves
- Resuspension of bottom sediments at depths of 14–20 feet
- Release of bound phosphorus from sediments into the water column
- Increased nutrient availability supporting algae and cyanobacteria growth

Peer-reviewed studies confirm that wake-induced turbulence enhances sediment resuspension and phosphorus cycling, promoting algal and cyanobacteria blooms (Schaeffer et al., 2015; Maynard & Wilcox, 2022; U.S. Forest Service, 2021).

If eutrophication intensifies, Highland Lake faces escalating impacts—more frequent cyanobacteria blooms, declining water quality, restricted recreation, property devaluation, and long-term remediation costs.

4. Regulatory Precedent: Lake Waramaug

Connecticut has already established precedent for limiting wakesurfing on unsuitable waterbodies. In July 2025, voters in Kent, Warren, and Washington approved an ordinance banning wake boat activities on Lake Waramaug, approved by CT DEEP and effective February 2026 (Lake Waramaug Authority, 2025; CT DEEP Bulletin PR2025-07).

Comparison of lake sizes demonstrates the clear applicability:

- Lake Waramaug: 656 acres
- Highland Lake: 445 acres

If a 656-acre lake was deemed unsafe for wakesurfing due to environmental and safety risks, a smaller and narrower 445-acre lake that has already exhibited cyanobacteria stress merits equal protection. The Lake Waramaug ordinance prohibits operation of vessels “employing ballast tanks, weight-loading hydrofoils, wake shapers, or any other devices to artificially enhance wake,” language that should be mirrored in a Highland Lake ordinance.

5. Public Safety and Equitable Lake Use

Highland Lake supports diverse recreational uses—swimming, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, sailing, and traditional boating. The lake’s narrow shape and limited width create hazardous conditions when wakesurfing occurs:

- Artificial waves reaching 3–4 feet traveling up to 500–600 feet in all directions
- Insufficient space for safe avoidance by human-powered craft
- Verifiable damage to docks, moorings, and shoreline walls and structures requiring property owners to incur meaningful repair expenses

DEEP’s *Guidelines for Safe Boating in Multi-Use Lakes* (2022) and multi-state analyses (MNDNR, 2021; Vermont DEC, 2023) confirm that in small or narrow lakes, wakesurfing monopolizes usable space and poses collision and erosion hazards. Therefore, continued unrestricted wakesurfing would be inequitable and unsafe for other users.

Recommended Regulatory Action

Based on the foregoing, CT DEEP may need to prohibit wakesurfing activities on Highland Lake through an ordinance paralleling Lake Waramaug's DEEP-approved restrictions—explicitly prohibiting the use of ballast tanks, hydrofoils, wake shapers, or other wake-enhancing devices. Such a prohibition may be justified because:

- Highland Lake's maximum width (2,640 ft) cannot satisfy 1,000–1,200 ft dissipation needs and maintain a safe parallel corridor for other boaters
- Documented cyanobacteria bloom (2024) evidences water quality stress
- Wakesurfing increases sediment resuspension and eutrophication rates
- Lake Waramaug precedent (656 acres) confirms state-level regulatory capacity
- Public safety and equitable lake access must be preserved

Depth alone cannot mitigate risk—dissipation distance is the controlling factor. Highland Lake's geometry and size appear to render wakesurfing incompatible with environmental protection and public welfare.

Conclusion

Highland Lake is a valued natural asset for Winchester and its residents. Its narrow, elongated configuration appears to make wakesurfing fundamentally incompatible with sustainable, safe lake use. The verified cyanobacteria bloom of 2024 signals environmental vulnerability, and the hydrodynamic science clearly supports restrictions.

In considering a wakesurfing ban consistent with Lake Waramaug, CT DEEP may be in the position to protect Highland Lake's water quality, ecological integrity, and recreational access for generations to come.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Marino * 754 Lake Drive * Winchester, CT 06098

References

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- Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. (2025). *Public Notice Bulletin PR2025-07: Approval of Lake Waramaug Boating Ordinance*.
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- U.S. Forest Service. (2021). *Wake Boat Management Review*.
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. (2023). *Wake Boat Impacts on Vermont Lakes: Technical Summary*.

From: LEONARD KADY <lkady@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:52 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Leonard
Washington ,CT
lkady@aol.com

From: Vanessa Boulier <vboulier@usa.net>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:01 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP-

My name is James Fisher and I have lived on Highland Lake for 41 years. In recent years, wake boats and wake surfing have caused the following issues at my house.

The pins holding my floating dock fell out 6 times this year when the heavy duty snap pins broke.

Two large floats 4' by 3' by 17" broke off of my floating dock because the tie down flanges broke off, causing large 3 foot cracks in the float. The floats then filled with water and the plastic (?) inside the floats fed into the lake. (not sure what kind of pollution this may have caused).

Many days large waves crashed over the top of my retaining wall causing damage to my wall and the landscape behind it.

Please take my concerns into account for your study.

Thanks,

**James Fisher
Highland Lake resident
224 Perch Rock Trail
Winsted**

From: Dakota Hock <dakota@dmhock.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:03 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

My name is Dakota Hock. I am writing this letter to whom it may concern regarding the possible ban of wake surfing within our community. I recently purchased a house on Highland Lake in Winsted, Connecticut along with a brand-new boat. My family and I have grown heavily into the sport of wake surfing and feel that it is necessary to keep this sport active not only on our lake but others across the state as well. We have heard from others around the lake who support the ban that wake surfing effects the ecosystem at the bottom of the lake and can bring different bacteria, algae, and plant species from one water body to another. My question is 1. Why can't regulations be made to keep surfing vessels further away from shore to eliminate any risk of damage to the bottom of the lake if this is a concern? My second question is 2. What types of regulations are put in place to ensure boaters are ACTUALLY draining or flushing their engines which are all water cooled when entering a lake or waterbody? I have spent several hours at the State boat launch at Highland Lake and have never once seen any boaters asked if their engines have been flushed prior to launching in our lake. The argument is that surf boats hold water in ballast bags which can lead to growth and transmission of bacteria and plant species but the only talk from anti surf boat activists is about the risk of the water being left inside the ballast bags not the engine cooling system because that would put ALL boats at risk to a ban. It seems like more of an attack on families who enjoy wake-surfing. My boat holds 3 gallons of water in the cooling system of the engine yet in the ballast bags once they are drained there is only 1-2 cups of water remaining in the system as they are all self-draining. Wake surfing should not be banned in our local communities or anywhere in the State of Connecticut. Instead, rules and regulations should be put in place to ensure proper wake surfing does not affect our beloved water bodies or lakes.

Thank you,
Dakota

Dakota Hock
DM Hock Enterprises , Owner

From: David Rupert <davidrupert@mac.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:14 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a homeowner and boat owner in Warren, CT, am a supporter of wake surfing on Lake Waramaug, and am writing to encourage DEEP to promulgate common sense standards for wake surfing. Standards based upon scientific facts. I am a member of Lake Waramaug Country Club and hope one day to get off the wait list and get a mooring so I can use my wake surf boat on Lake Waramaug with my kids and grandkids. My only other option is to trailer it over to Candlewood Lake where my best friend lives and he says it is so crowded on the weekends as to be dangerous for ANY recreational activity (especially with young children). And so the boat sits shrink-wrapped on my trailer in my back yard!

I am a longtime supporter of the environment, both voluntarily and financially, and it annoyed me that the PR campaign waged in Warren included a lot of 'Save the Lake' and "Save the Environment' chants without any rigorous scientific facts to support them. Appealing to emotions is not the proper way to govern or regulate—that's where I am hoping DEEP will step in and take responsible, well-researched action.

Thank you for reaching out to gather input.

Sincerely,

David C. Rupert
Melius Road
Warren CT

From: Sean Bailey <spb0044@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:03 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sean
Winsted,CT
spb0044@gmail.com

Sean Bailey

From: Gary M <gary0471@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:25 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Lake commenting on: Highland Lake Winsted Ct.

My experience on Highland Lake (40 years) leads me to believe most of the wake boating issues stem from folks who use the launch to use the lake. Lake residents have enough common sense to utilize the center of the main lake for this type of fun.

Possibly some schooling is needed and could be administered at the launch or when new licensees take their boating course. Just like it's recommended to wash your hull before launching the boat we should understand where boarding and surfing is best enjoyed. Common sense tells me to stay out of the small coves with these types of boats when surfing or wakeboarding.

Thanks,
Gary

Sent from my iPad

From: Katie Elvin Watkin <katie@watkin.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:30 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Protect Wake Surfing in CT

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

I am writing in response to Connecticut DEEP's request for input on its forthcoming Wake Boat and Wake Surfing Study.

Background

Since 2021 I have owned a home in Warren, and I immediately began donating to the Lake Waramaug Conservancy (formerly known as the Task Force) whose singular mission has been to improve and protect the water quality of the lake. My comments below reflect my view as a resident who deeply values the lake and its water quality. Although I am to to Warren and the Lake Waramaug community, I do have good knowledge of the water quality metrics the Conservancy has tracked for the past fifty years and have read many of the reports from studies focused on understanding the impact of wake surfing in comparison to other watercraft.

Those in favor of banning or restricting wake surfing have focused on two primary concerns:

1. The potential harm to water quality, and the environment and docks from large waves crashing into the shoreline and from the downwash stirring up the lake bottom, and
2. Safety - to paddlers and swimmers as well as people sitting or standing on their docks

Much to my frustration, this controversy has been long on fearmongering and woefully short on facts and science.

Throughout this controversy there has been no evidence whatsoever of any environmental harm caused by wake surfing. In fact, the water quality data gathered by the Conservancy shows unambiguously that Lake Waramaug's water quality has improved over the past fifty years and that the last ten years – the period over which wake surfing has gained popularity - has seen the highest water quality since we began collecting the data in 1977.

Similarly, there is no evidence to suggest that wake surfing poses greater dangers to participants or bystanders than other motorized water activities like tubing, jet skiing and waterskiing. On the contrary, data shows that wake surfing poses the least risk to bystanders of any of these activities, which makes sense since it takes place at low speed.

The Terra Vigilis Study

As DEEP knows, the ban enacted by the three towns surrounding Lake Waramaug, relies on the findings of the Terra Vigilis ("TV") study which is deeply flawed, and should not have sufficed as the basis of the ban:

· What did the report actually say? It really boiled down to two findings: first, that for a wake-surf wave to equal a water ski wave an additional 400 feet of distance from shore is needed for the wave to attenuate; and second that the downthrust from a wake boat in surf mode could disturb the lake bottom as far down as 26 feet.

However:

- o They recommended that distance and depth restrictions be established but never recommended a BAN;

- o Their recommended distance from shore finding differs significantly from other more rigorous studies;

- o They also acknowledged that their depth finding was “preliminary, was not the focus of their work, and required further study”.

· It’s important to understand what TV did and didn’t do.

- o All TV did was compare the wake from a wake boat operating at 9 MPH in surf mode to the wake created by a water ski boat operating at 25 MPH on plane.

- o Equally important is what they didn’t do:

1. Perhaps most importantly, they did not compare wave energy from wake surfing to tubing or to other boats operating at comparable speeds; this is critical and underlies why singling out wake surfing is so arbitrary and unreasonable. The comparison they made between a wake boat at 9 MPH and a water ski boat at 25 MPH is the most extreme comparison you can make. In doing so, they created a false picture. Obviously, there’s no regulation saying all boats need to operate at 25 MPH, and the fact is that water skiing at this speed represents a small percentage of the motorized activity on the lake. Boats tubing and pleasure cruising at comparable speeds to wake surfing represent a far greater share of the activity on the lake and, as other studies have found, other comparably sized boats operating at the same 9 MPH generate a comparably large wave.

2. They also did not assess the frequency or locations of wake surfing activity versus other boating activity; how can you assess whether an activity is a potential problem if you have no sense for its frequency both in an absolute sense and in relation to other activities?

3. As they themselves acknowledged repeatedly, they made no attempt to assess any actual harm to the lake caused by wake surfing as this was “not in their scope of work”.

The Case For Reasonable Statewide Regulations

While I am disappointed by DEEP’s decision to approve the ban enacted by the towns surrounding Lake Waramaug, I am encouraged by your willingness to conduct a study on wake surfing that could help inform state-level policy. The ban on Lake Waramaug is an example of why matters of environmental impact should be left to state agencies with related expertise, not local town advocacy groups motivated by personal preferences.

The process leading to the ban was deeply flawed: residents were never given a forum

for debating the science (town halls were held to discuss TV's findings and ask questions like "did you assess the actual impact on the lake?" or "did you compare wake energy to other comparable boats and activities at comparable speeds?" but the answers were always "no because that wasn't in our scope of work") nor were residents able to propose and discuss more modest regulations short of a ban. Why voters were never given the chance to discuss these alternatives remains a mystery. Statewide regulations could save countless towns across Connecticut from wasting time and resources on developing a patchwork of inconsistent and contestable regulations.

It is clear that the potentially adverse impact of large waves and sediment disturbance can be mitigated by distance and depth restrictions like those that have been proposed by some residents of Lake Waramaug for two years without banning the activity altogether. Numerous studies more rigorous than TV's have concluded that if wake surfing is conducted at least 200 feet from shore and in at least 10-15 feet of water the environmental impact of the wave energy is minimal and equal to other boats operating 100 feet from shore (i.e. current state regulations) at comparable speed. If DEEP follows the actual science here, it will conclude that singling out wake surfing for a ban or severe restrictions is "arbitrary, unreasonable, and unnecessarily restrictive" to address the environmental and safety concerns raised. It is no coincidence that nearly a dozen other states that have studied this issue have generally coalesced around the 200-foot distance requirement; a few have also adopted a depth restriction, and a few have added a minimum lake size requirement of 50 acres. (On Lake Waramaug, a 200-foot distance and 15-foot depth requirement would leave 55% or 363 acres available for wake surfing).

I know that wake surfing has had no material impact on the water quality of Lake Waramaug. I also know that this activity is safe, and people of all ages can participate which is why its popularity has grown (for older people like me, it's much safer and easier on my body to surf at 10MPH than to ski at 30 MPH). Depriving people of access to this activity based on unsubstantiated fears is not what the state should be doing. Other towns in Connecticut are discussing this issue currently; the residents of Morris recently rejected (for now) a proposed ordinance restricting wake surfing. I believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of fears and misrepresentations.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to science-based management of Connecticut's public waters.

Respectfully yours
Katie Watkin
Warren, CT

From: KMeyer52@comcast.net <KMeyer52@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:31 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake surfing

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

I am a waterfront property owner at Highland Lake in Winsted, CT. Recently, the issue of wakeboard boats has been in the limelight. I think it is important for the DEEP to step in and supply some facts showing if/how the large wake of a wakeboard boat might cause ecological and/or property damage. I have never had an issue with damage from this type of boat. I think that uniform regulations across the whole state would be the best way to regulate this type of activity. Maybe no surfing x amount of feet from shore. I do not think that this type of problem should be left to individual towns. They do not have the facts or expertise to draft such a regulation. I do know that if any regulation is adopted, it will be very difficult to enforce. Thank you.

Keith Meyer
47 East Lake St
Winsted CT

From: Sean Bailey <spb0044@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:40 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my thoughts on wakesurfing and any forthcoming regulations in CT.

I am a property owner of a waterfront residence on Highland Lake. I am a boater but do not own a wakeboat or a boat with a ballast system, but several of my neighbors do. I do recognize that the boats produce a large wake that can be damaging to the shoreline and the lake if surfing occurs too close to shore. That being said I don't see it being a significant problem or something that should be banned.

I will say that the overwhelming majority of the wake boats on our lake are owned by waterfront property owners and are not trailered to the lake. It's very rare to see a wakesurf boat at the boat launch. They are a significant investment and not something that most people who do not live on the lake own.

Owning a lakefront property is very expensive, my taxes are over 16k a year and my understanding is that the waterfront property owners pay approximately 1/3 of the taxes in Winchester and most of us only use the property for 4 or 5 months a year.

I would support common sense regulations that protect property, the environment and the shoreline such as a requirement to be 300 feet off shore or even no surfing before 10 or 11 am. I would not support an outright ban on the activity. I have read several studies documenting how the wake dissipates past 200 feet and in deeper water greater than 12 feet and that has been my experience on the lake. I also feel any legislation should be set by the state after research and discussion by qualified individuals, and not something that each jurisdiction should weigh in on.

There are other issues on the lake that I feel are honestly more of an issue than wakesurfing. We have bass fisherman casting onto docks and leaving hooks on the docks to be stepped on or catching boat upholstery and covers causing damage. There are bass tournaments taking up the entire boat launch so no one else can use it. There are people recklessly operating PWCs. I had to jump onto one and stop it because the owner fell off and was not wearing a lanyard and it was driving across the lake without an operator. These are just a few examples, and I can confidently say they are not people who live at the lake and maintain the property.

Sincerely

Sean Bailey
East Lake Street Winsted

From: catherine funston <cfunston2000@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:07 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

catherine funston
New Preston/washington ,CT
cfunston2000@comcast.net

Sent from my iPhone

From: Beth B <bethsballentine@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:25 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing regarding the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study. We live on Highland Lake in Winsted, CT, and have seen significant impact from these boats. Our lake wall continues to be damaged by the large waves produced by these boats, as have the walls of our neighbors. The waves also make it difficult for swimmers, kayakers and paddleboarders. These boats that produce large surfing wakes are not appropriate for our small lake.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beth Ballentine

From: Will Funston <willfunston@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:31 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Will Funston

New Preston,CT

willfunston@gmail.com

From: barbara petriccione <barbpetri@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:53 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboat and Wakesurf study

I have lived on Lake Lillinonah for 50 years and have seen many changes, but it does not include erosion from wake/surf boats. Any erosion that I witnessed has been from strong storms pouring into the lake. Poor drainage from streets has contributed to some erosion. Personally I believe the lowering and ponding of our lake does more damage than any boat wake does.

The wake/surf boats have never been a problem. They are here on summer weekends, having fun and simply enjoying their sport. Never once have I seen them come anywhere close to shore. When out kayaking I have never been swamped by their waves.

Lake Lillinonah is a wonderful quiet lake and used by many fishermen, water skiers, jet skiers, pontoon boats, kayakers, paddle boarder, etc. The people that use the lake care for it are respectful of the rules.

Many times sitting on the dock I have seen wake surfers out and when the waves come ashore they raise the dock, but so do regular waterskiing boats, pontoon boats and packs of jet skiers doing circles. .

I am opposed to banning wake/surf boats.

Barbara Petriccione
Brookfield, CT 06804

From: Calvin Bordick <calvin.bordick@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:43 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wake Surf Study

Hello CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Calvin Bordick and I am a 25 year old Connecticut resident. I have had the opportunity to spend the majority of my life recreating in and around Connecticut bodies of water. I have been to all of the lower 48 states and seen the way many other states care for their waterways. I consider myself very lucky to have grown up around the most well maintained bodies of water in the entire country. I also love that we have a passionate citizenship that cares about preserving them.

I am someone who does water sports and fishing. I would like to continue to do so in clean, healthy bodies of water. I ask that this survey considers the way that real people interact with waterways. Most of the surveys on the issue of Wake Surfing seem to test effects of heavily ballasted Wake Boats in hypothetical scenarios. While this is important I think the new study should take into account the way that people actually wake surf. This includes: operating a safe distance from shore (as dictated by law), operating in a manner that sends the larger wake back towards the middle of the body of water, and not operating in shallow water. Doing so will help to collect relevant data and help the state to enact effective legislation based on accurate findings.

Taking the time and effort to research Wake Surfing and its effects with a holistic view, as outlined in the 8 sections is nice to see for me as someone whose future is impacted by this decision. I hope that you make decisions based on our future and our ability to safely recreate outside.

Thank you,
Calvin Bordick

From: Lu GH <luguytheman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:35 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

[Message was empty]

From: Linda Simmons <hoopsimmonslin@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:38 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakesurfing Regulation Input

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I have already written to you regarding specifics about an attempted wakesurfing ban on Bashan Lake in Moodus, CT. I am deeply concerned about discrimination against physically impaired people who may not be able to waterski, but can wakesurf as an alternative. It is quite upsetting that rather than compromise and use the center of the lake for wakesurfing, a few residents are trying to just ban the whole sport. This sport is safe and people of all ages participate in it - even disabled people can do this who may not be able to waterski.

I am now writing this letter to call for DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together. There should be certain standards across all lakes, such as depth of water and distance to the shore.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. As you already know through many previous letters from Bashan Lake residents, certain local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories. A few residents in our town spread false information to the elderly population, and next thing you know, they are voting for a total ban. This is why experts such as you should step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together. And for certain disabled individuals, this is a sport they can actually do - please don't allow them to be discriminated against in this way, especially when there is a fair solution rather than a total ban.

Sincerely,

Linda Simmons
Bashan Lake resident

From: Linda Simmons <hoopsimmonslin@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:41 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I have already written to you regarding specifics about an attempted wakesurfing ban on Bashan Lake in Moodus, CT. I am deeply concerned about discrimination against physically impaired people who may not be able to waterski, but can wakesurf as an alternative. It is quite upsetting that rather than compromise and use the center of the lake for wakesurfing, a few residents are trying to just ban the whole sport. This sport is safe and people of all ages participate in it - even disabled people can do this who may not be able to waterski.

I am now writing this letter to call for DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together. There should be certain standards across all lakes, such as depth of water and distance to the shore.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. As you already know through many previous letters from Bashan Lake residents, certain local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories. A few residents in our town spread false information to the elderly population, and next thing you know, they are voting for a total ban. This is why experts such as you should step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together. And for certain disabled individuals, this is a sport they can actually do - please don't allow them to be discriminated against in this way, especially when there is a fair solution rather than a total ban.

Sincerely,

Linda Simmons
Bashan Lake resident

From: Ella Watkin <ella@watkin.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:07 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Ella
Warren,CT
ella@watkin.com

From: Adam Southergill <skillz357@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:20 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

I grew up in CT and have spent time at highland lake every summer at my family's lake house. We have always enjoyed all sorts of water sports and most recently got into wake surfing. My family and our friends really enjoy it and I hope to continue enjoying this hobby.

While I can understand the need for some streamlined regulations at the state level, I don't believe allowing town by town laws to be implemented would be a good idea. A lot of issues with wake boarding are the same as all water sports activities and can be better regulated with more law enforcement presence.

Connecticut needs common—and common-sense—standards for wakesurfing rather than individual, misguided town-by-town regulations. The state should act because towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts. It's why we need DEEP to step in.

Thanks

Adam S

From: Adam Southergill <adam.southergill@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:22 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon DEEP,

Connecticut needs common—and common-sense—standards for wakesurfing rather than individual, misguided town-by-town regulations. The state should act because towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts. It's why we need DEEP to step in.

I grew up in CT and have spent time at highland lake every summer at my family's lake house. We have always enjoyed all sorts of water sports and most recently got into wake surfing. My family and our friends really enjoy it and I hope to continue enjoying this hobby.

While I can understand the need for some streamlined regulations at the state level, I don't believe allowing town by town laws to be implemented would be a good idea. A lot of issues with wake boarding are the same as all water sports activities and can be better regulated with more law enforcement presence.

Thanks

Adam Southergill

From: julie Ostrover <julie@juliao.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:08 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
julie
Greenwich,CT
julieandgirls@aol.com

From: Leah Rimland <rimlandleah@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:43 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Leah

Warren,CT

rimlandleah@gmail.com

From: Marybeth Barrett <grnbarrett@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:51 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and Wakesurf safely

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing for a uniform policy across our waterways that is rooted in science, protects the environment, and allows letter Instead of different regulations in different towns, Connecticut needs a single common – and common-sense – standard for wake-surfing across the state. I'm asking the State to calling for a uniform policy across our waterways that is rooted in science, protects the environment, and allows wake surfing to continue.

Thank you for your time ...

Marybeth Barrett
Waterford CT

From: Kate Thorson <katherine.thorson@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:53 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing as a Coventry resident and lakefront homeowner to share my concerns about wake boats currently being used on Coventry Lake. The size and force of the wakes these boats create are causing real problems on our lake—especially for safety and shoreline stability.

On our property, we have significant erosion along the shoreline, which is in large part caused by wake boats. The waves are also dangerous for swimmers, kayakers, and small boats, which are common on a lake of this size. It's simply not a large or deep enough body of water to safely absorb that kind of impact. I grew up on a lake of a similar size in New Hampshire that did not allow wake boats. I was really shocked when I got to Coventry to see how dangerous and destructive the waves from wake boats can be.

I hope DEEP will take a close look at these effects and consider restricting or banning wake boats here before the damage becomes irreversible.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do to protect Connecticut's lakes.

Sincerely,

Kate Thorson

Coventry, CT

From: Keith Angell <kga57@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 2:59 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wake Surfing Studies

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

After 2 years of research, and based on 12 other states who have implemented guidelines, I recommend:

- 1) 200' from shore
- 2) 20' depth
- 3) larger wake oriented to middle of lake

Very simple!!!

Sincerely,

Keith Angell
Washington,CT
kga57@yahoo.com
d

From: Georgia Mann <gcmann03@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 3:00 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Georgia Mann, and my family owns a home in the Lake Waramaug community.

Lake Waramaug has always been an incredibly special place for me and my family. As a college student living away from home, I treasure the time I get to spend on Lake Waramaug with family and friends, enjoying nature, and going wake surfing.

Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug.

This issue has impacted my family firsthand. As boat owners, we invested in our boat so we can enjoy this activity with friends and with the community. Now, we can no longer use them for their intended purpose.

As a supporter of the environment, and of course the health of our beloved lake, my family and all that are advocating for wake surfing to continue on Lake Waramaug are willing to practice in the areas that are deep enough to do so.

I am also a believer of science and facts, AND of the State stepping in so that local towns do not implement a hodgepodge of varying regulations that are not informed by science or facts.

What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Best,
Georgia

From: Sally Mann <sallymintzmann@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:55 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sally mann, and I am a home owner in the Lake Waramaug community.

Lake Waramaug has always been an incredibly special place for me and my family. We come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and enjoy the lake. We paddle, swim, float, water ski and so, adore our time wake surfing.

Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote uninformed bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug. We should not have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories. This issue has impacted me firsthand. Certainly as a boat owner, but mostly in that my family, friends, and community derive such great enjoyment from this activity— and I feel that our rights are not being heard to allow us to continue enjoying this memory bonding time together.

As a supporter of the environment, and of course the health of our beloved lake, my family and all that are advocating for wake surfing to continue on Lake Waramaug are willing to practice in the areas that are deep enough to do so.

I am also a believer of science and facts, AND of the State stepping in so that local towns do not implement a hodgepodge of varying regulations that are not informed by science or facts. We need a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy this safe and fun activity which brings us all together.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to science-based management of Connecticut's public waters. It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure that people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Respectfully,
Sally Mann
Warren, CT

From: valesca Guerrand Hermes <vghermes@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:01 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Valesca
Warren,CT
vghermes@me.com

Sent from my iPhone.

From: colleen.e.kranz <colleen@socialalchemydesign.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:29 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To any of whom it may concern::

I am a CT resident and homeowner who has enjoyed many days on the water wake surfing + watching other enjoy it immensely as well. I thoroughly support wake surfing and believe it should continue ---

We are looking for more of a streamlined statewide policy for Connecticut's waterways and a prohibition on municipal bans, so that there is a uniform approach that allows wake surfing to continue vs. individual town-by-town regulations. I am a passionate supporter of the environment, of science and facts, and of the State stepping in so that local towns do not implement a hodgepodge of varying regulations that are not informed by science or facts. Individual towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts, which is why we need DEEP to step in.

It has come to my attention that unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug. We cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories. What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together. It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter --- this type of activity is one of the greater gifts this life has to offer --

-Colleen Kranz
Milford, CT

From: Alice Baldwin <alicebaldwin@mac.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:29 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Alice Baldwin
New Preston,CT
alicebaldwin@mac.com

From: Jeffrey Eaton <jeff_eaton@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:32 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear whomever it may concern:

I'm a longtime boat owner who has a house on West Shore Road on Lake Waramaug. I grew up spending countless hours on the lake as child, tubing, skiing, and barefooting. Those experiences are some of my best memories of my entire life. As boating and watersports have evolved, my family and i have become avid wakesurfers. I would argue that the waves generated from wake surfing are arguably no worse than the waves generated from tubing or other watersports. The issue is not the wake, it's a driver driving too close to the shore. I would suggest limiting wakesurfing or any water sport generating large waves to be restricted to a certain distance from the shore. An outright ban on wakesurfing is very unnecessary and presents a slippery slope that may lead to other bans. Is tubing going to be banned next? Waterskiing after that? Where does it stop?

The new wake boats do indeed make big wakes, but those wakes dissipate pretty quickly. Furthermore, the shape of that wake leads to the waves approaching the shore at an angle versus them hitting the shore completely perpendicular, like a wake does when a boat is at higher speeds.

Again, i am strongly against a ban on wakesurfing or wake boats. Just like everything else in life, watersports have evolved and wakesurfing is a very safe and fun family activity. I would potentially support some restrictions (i.e. certain distance from shore or certain areas of the lake), but an outright ban is un-American.

Jeff

Jeff Eaton +1.203.722.0920

From: Jill Shulman <backcountryfarm@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:35 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Waldron <jpwaldron45@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:17 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

John & Anne Waldron
Warren CT

John Waldron
203-253-8019 (m)

From: Daniel Papernaster <dipapernaster@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:51 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for reviewing this issue. I support regulating but not banning wake boats. We have a home on highland lake. Like all of the activities on the lake, the key is enforcement. Too many boats and jet skis get too close to shore. I support the use of wake boats so long as they remain an appropriate distance from shore. If they do so, they are no more of a hazard than deep V hull boats or any other activity. In many respects it is the V hulled boats that create inappropriate wakes as those boats should be used in the ocean and not on lakes.

Banning wake boats would be an overreaction to what is a manageable problem.

Thank you.

Daniel I. Papermaster

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

[One State Street | Hartford, CT 06103-3178](#)

Direct: [+1.860.240.2954](#) | Main: [+1.860.240.2700](#) | Fax: [+860-240-2701](#)

From: Andra Mazur <abm122@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:55 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a resident of Union, CT and I live in Mashapaug Lake. I would like to submit personal comments about the consideration of wake boarding in CT, and most specifically on Mashapaug Lake.

Throughout the years, I have contributed both time and money through charitable donations to DEEP and trash pick-up days. Please feel free to ask Marcella Hube, of the DEEP - she knows me and she is a wonderful asset to Connecticut. I'm a huge fan of Bigelow Hollow and Mashapaug lake. I care a lot and always want to be helpful. As such, I must oppose any form of wake boarding or wake boats on the lake. It would not properly balance this highly-impactful recreational use of the lake against nature preservation, safety and the many other ways people passively enjoy this state park 'wonder' of Connecticut.

What follows is evidence based information that formed my opinions.

As you probably know, Minnesota has done a significant study on this matter. I'll include a link to the NPR broadcast about what they found: <https://one.npr.org/i/fis-673690125-781a982482f673d24c91e53e8f401d23: fis-673690125-781a982482f673d24c91e53e8f401d23-enclosure-audio>

1. From the MN study, it appears that use of wake boarding boats in less than 20ft of water and closer than 500ft from any shore has significant negative impacts on all other aspects of the lake, and as such I am opposed to this use on Mashapaug lake.

Due to the islands, which are already susceptible to erosion from faster-moving boats, it should be noted that the 500ft requirement includes shores of islands, not just the outer shore. This likely leaves very minimal area of the lake that is both 20ft deep and further than 500ft away from any shore.

2. Moreover, the use of these wake boats has major impact on stirring up the sediment on the bottom of the lake. This impacts spawning of fish. Fishing would be negatively impacted, and Mashapaug is one of the best and only lakes in CT with a natural walleye population. Because of the excellent fishing, anglers come from all over New England and the country to fish in both water and on ice. It is a significant boon to tourism that would be negatively impacted if wake boats disturbed the spawning process.

3. Next, the safety of on-water sports is very important to me as an open-water swimmer, crew rower and stand up paddle boarder. This is one of this only lakes within a state park, and these 'passive' activities are a huge draw for visitors to Bigelow Hollow Park, and they are the very reason I chose to buy a house on this particular lake. The quiet, unpopulated, low use lake makes it a safe place for children and adults to enjoy quiet, peaceful lake activities. Wake boarding would

significantly impact, if not completely destroy the ability for me, my children and all others who visit the park to safely take part in these activities. Being hit or decapitated by a fast-moving wake boat or a strangely large wave not ordinary to a lake of this size, is a massive liability to the state at this state park lake. The state should not take this risk to human safety.

4. Finally, Mashapaug is home to bald eagles, cormorants, heron, and most notably, the only 2 Common Loons in all of Connecticut. All of these birds of prey require a number of things to successfully choose to nest at a lake: deep, clear water to hunt under the surface (sediment churned up by wake boards would significantly, negatively impacted water clarity), large bodies of water for their on water, running flight take off, and quiet and safe inlets and outlets to allow for breeding and raising chicks (see source

here: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/lifehistory#:~:text=BehaviorSurface%20Dive-,Habitat,and%20even%20aquatic%20insect%20larvae.).

It would seem like such a poor balancing of human 'high impact usage' if we lost the only 2 Loons in all of Connecticut. They are a delight to hear all spring and summer long, and a rare sight to see this low in New England, since they are mostly located in New Hampshire and Maine. To have a pair nesting here in Connecticut is nothing to treat lightly and something to protect as good stewards of nature.

Please contact with any questions at all. I care deeply about Mashapaug Lake and Bigelow Hollow, and I think allowing wake boats on it will ruin the entire point of a quiet, peaceful retreat for the vast majority of lake goers and all of nature.

Thank you for reading,
Andra Mazur
860.508.5749
Abm122@yahoo.com

From: Alexandra Mann <alirosemann@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:03 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ali Mann and my family has a house in Warren on Lake Waramaug.

Lake Waramaug has always been an incredibly special place for me. I come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and go wake surfing.

Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug.

This issue has impacted me firsthand. As a boat owner, I invested in my boats so my family, friends, and community can enjoy this activity. Now, I can no longer use them for their intended purpose.

I will have to either sell my boats—and likely lose much of the money I put into it—or move them to another lake. Doing that risks serious biological and environmental risks, including the spread of invasive species that can harm native ecosystems, outcompete local wildlife, and degrade water quality. By banning wake surfing, local officials have unwittingly created potential environmental harm.

I shouldn't have to suffer a financial loss—especially when local officials refused to understand the issue or look at the facts. DEEP should remove the ability of local towns to pass regulations.

We cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Best,

Ali Mann

www.armddigital.com

From: Neil McGuinness <nmcg@kw.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:39 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>; Kathie McGuinness <kmcg@kw.com>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

CT DEEP,

We are Highland lakefront property owners and have a dock on the 3rd Bay of the lake. We have observed that the wake boats pulling wakeboarders create dramatically larger and longer wake waves than normal boat traffic and waterskiing boat traffic. The normal traffic does impact and "eat-away" our property. but the wake boats hurt the lakefront land and eat away at the [shoreline.to](#) a much greater degree. We have a large rock bulkhead near the dock and the bulkhead has been there since at least 1934 (1934 aerial photo). In the past four years the bulkhead has been breaking down we believe due to wake boats and their intentionally designed much larger wakes.

Wake boats are specifically engineered to create large, surfable waves that enable wakeboarding and wakesurfing—a trend that has led to significant ecological and social effects statewide. Their presence has prompted community debates and even bans in certain lakes, such as Lake Waramaug, beginning in 2026.

This sport requires much larger waves than waterskiing. Unlike ski boats, which aim for minimal wakes, wake boats employ deep hulls, rear-mounted inboard engines, and ballast systems that can instantly add thousands of pounds of weight to the boat, optimizing their wakes for surfing and stunts. Community complaints have focused on increased shoreline erosion, dock damage, unsafe conditions for paddlers and swimmers, and more turbulent lake ecosystems.

Wake boats cause greater shoreline damage than traditional motorboats pulling waterskiers due to the following key technical and physical differences:

- Wake boats are designed explicitly to generate deep, high-energy waves, sometimes exceeding 4-5 feet in height, due to their ballast, hull design, and surf systems.
- The waves from a wake boat travel much farther from the boat and persist for longer intervals, impacting shorelines more intensely, even at greater distances.
- Ski boats, conversely, produce flat, minimal wakes intentionally engineered for smooth skiing, resulting in far less water displacement and negligible shoreline impact in comparison.
- The powerful wakes generated by wake boats contribute to accelerated shoreline erosion. This leads to the breakdown of natural and developed shorelines, property damage (such as to docks and ladders), and the disruption of nesting habitats for wildlife, such as fish.
- Residents have reported observable increases in shoreline "muddying," violent dock movement, capsized small boats, injury risk, and unsafe swimming and kayaking conditions when wake boats operate, especially in surf mode.

The waves produced by wake boats dwarf the wakes generated by typical waterski boats, whose flatter wakes are better suited for high-speed skiing and do little to disturb near-shore environments. In addition, wake boats are often operated in modes and at speeds designed to maximize wake size, contrary to the gentler modes customary for ski boats.

In summary, their large, high-energy waves have led to disproportionate shoreline damage and have become a major environmental and safety concern compared to traditional waterski motorboats

Neil and Kathie McGuinness
512 W Wakefield Blvd
Winsted, CT 06098
904-509-7582

From: TLMelton <tlmelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:23 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Thomas
Washington,CT
TLMelton@gmail.com

From: Doug Kosann <dakosann@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:26 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

Alongside my family, Lake Waramug has grown to be an extremely precious place to make precious memories filled with activities: kayaking, swimming, paddleboarding, slaloming, wakeboarding, and wake surfing. The activities my family takes part in are enjoyed by all my family members and our extended family from little cousins, aunts and uncles, to grandparents.

That is why these scare tactics against wake surfing has caused such controversy. But, in actuality, the lake is as healthy as ever.

Having been a passionate water skier, wake boarder, and wake surfer for many years, I can truly say that Lake Waramug may be one of the quietest lakes I have participated on. Bantam Lake is consistently filled with boaters who make the lake extremely difficult to find calm waters to ski, surf, and board on. But Lake Waramug, is consistently and shockingly empty even in the "peak" weekends such as Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day.

My family and I are passionate about the home that has held and will continue to hold precious memories for our expanding family and are committed to maintain the pristine and beautiful nature of the lake and the surrounding environment. We are committed to and look forward to seeing further studies analyzing the science behind the desire to ban one of our favorite activities. We look forward to DEEP methodically evaluating this situation and the science, followed by issuing a state-wide consistent message.

Best,
Doug Kosann

From: Lucy Baldwin <lucybaldwin21@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:51 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Lucy Baldwin

New Preston, CT

lucybaldwin21@gmail.com

From: Whit Marshall <whitner@optonline.net>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:11 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing in support of wake surfing and believe it should continue. I think scientific and fact based review by the state on environmental impact is the fair approach to reviewing wake surfing impact and determine any uniform approach to this type of activity. Local town-by-town regulations is less fair given they are relatively ill-equipped and under-resourced, as compared to the State.

Best,

Whit Marshall
203-295-1773
Greenwich CT Resident

Sent from my iPad

From: Jim Shaughnessy <Jim@shaugh.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:50 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to express my support for the DEEP study of wake boarding and wake surfing on Connecticut's lakes.

We need a state-wide standard, based on scientific data, a comprehensive review of all relevant information and an orderly process, not a patchwork of lake-by-lake rules driven by localities responding to loud voices of an unrepresentative minority.

Thank you for considering my input. I look forward to an open, honest and balanced discussion and review of all the competing considerations as DEEP sets the policies for all people to enjoy the sport of their choice on our CT lakes.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

James P. Shaughnessy
13 Crescent Beach Road
Norwalk, CT

From: Stephanie Denya <sdenya1027@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:35 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Questions regarding written comments

Good Evening,

I have several comments from the Bashan Lake Association that would like to be submitted to you for the "Wake Boat & Wake surf Study". We would like to have our President drop them off to you directly as there are too many to scan and send. Who would he drop them off to and what location?

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Denya
860-539-8819

From: Margie Shaughnessy <margie@shaugh.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:40 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may

I am writing this email to express my deep concern that a small minority of citizens could affect a much larger majority of people's ability to enjoy the use of the many beautiful lakes in CT. Clear scientific data, information and an orderly process should determine state wide balanced policies affecting lakes, not loud voices of an unrepresentative minority.

Thank you for considering my input. I look forward to an open, honest and balanced discussion and review of all the competing considerations as DEEP sets the policies for all people to enjoy the sport of their choice on our CT lakes.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Margie Shaughnessy

13 Crescent Beach Rd

Norwalk, CT 06853 Sent from my iPhone

From: Lucy Williams <Lucy.Williams@lycap.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 10:04 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Team,

I hope this note finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share my support for wake surfing and to ask that DEEP continue to protect access to this activity across Connecticut.

Wake surfing has become such a meaningful part of life for many of us here. It's more than just a sport. It's time with family, time outdoors, and a chance to enjoy the lakes we care so much about. It also supports local businesses, marinas, and jobs. I'm proud to live in a state that values both recreation and environmental protection, and I believe we can have both.

Unfortunately, different towns are starting to pass their own wake surfing bans or restrictions, which has created real confusion and frustration. One town allows it, while the next doesn't, even when the lakes are nearly identical. That kind of inconsistency doesn't help anyone. I believe Connecticut needs one clear, statewide policy based on science and common sense, not local politics or misinformation.

At Lake Waramaug, where my family and I often spend time, these uneven rules have made a big impact. Local pressure led to restrictions that make wake surfing nearly impossible, even though it can be done safely and responsibly. People who own boats for wake surfing are now being forced to either sell them or move them elsewhere, which ironically increases environmental risks like the spread of invasive species.

Wake surfing is safe, family-oriented, and environmentally responsible when done properly. Please create a uniform, statewide policy that allows it to continue on Connecticut's waterways and prevents towns from creating their own bans.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and for your commitment to balanced, science-driven policy.

Best,
Lucy

Lucy Williams
LIGHTYEAR CAPITAL
40 West 57th Street, 22nd Floor | New York, NY 10019
O: 212.328.0553 | M: 347.726.8504 | M: 203.969.4003
lucy.williams@lycap.com

From: Frank Gulia <frank@cedarmarina.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 10:36 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you to strongly encourage you to implement statewide regulations on wake surfing. Wake boats are critical to our marinas and the local jobs that they support. Currently, municipalities are considering enacting an arbitrary hodgepodge of restrictions, including outright bans.

From a policy standpoint, this makes no sense. Connecticut should not have different regulations regarding wake surfing across different towns.

Most importantly, these regulations have economic ramifications for the marina at which I'm employed. Demand for wake boats is soaring. My job depends on ensuring wake boats, in wake mode, continue to be legal across the state.

Regulations should be rooted in science, balancing recreational imperatives with environmental protection. There are several important considerations that should be made as you undertake this study.

We need reasonable statewide regulations. It makes no sense to have disparate rules around wake surfing in different towns. I am in support of a common statewide regulation across Connecticut's waterways that ensures our state remains a desirable tourist destination.

Over-restrictive regulations could be extremely damaging. There are people, families, and towns that depend on our ability to sell these boats to consumers. It is critical to remember that behind every regulation, there are residents – like me – who are impacted. We just want to help our families get by and make ends meet.

When it comes to wake surfing, distortions abound. Regulations that have occurred so far have been based on falsehoods and fear-mongering. We know that the science shows that when done at the right distance from shore, wake surfing is not only safe, but also has minimal environmental impact.

Restrictions on wake surfing will be easily implemented and enforceable. We are proud of the role we play in instructing boat owners to operate safely and respectfully and in compliance with Connecticut's restrictions on speed and distance from shore. Adding further restrictions on wake surfing would fit easily in our existing educational program and be as readily enforceable as existing distance restrictions on other sports.

I believe deeply in protecting our waterways from an environmental standpoint. But I also believe in science. The science shows that this is a safe activity, and should be regulated as such.

Together, we must preserve the integrity of our waterways, the interests of individuals to pursue

the recreation of their choice, and businesses like ours that depend on this activity. I urge you to implement a balanced approach that prevents municipalities from creating arbitrary policies.

Sincerely,

Frank Gulia

Owner/ Captain

Cedar Marina, Inc

p: 203-335-6262

a: 86 Bostwick Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

w: www.cedarmarina.com

e: frank@cedarmarina.com

From: Kelley Lanahan <lanahan@comcast.net>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 1:56 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern;

Thank you for this opportunity to address the use of wake boats and wake surfing on our public waterways in the State of Connecticut.

I own a home in Danbury, CT adjacent to Candlewood Lake. I have a recreational boat (22' pontoon) that I keep in a slip maintained by our special tax district/HOA, the Hawthorne Terrace Tax District.

As you are likely aware, Candlewood Lake has had a number of issues over the past years in respect to public safety. DUI boating, severe/fatal boating accidents, drownings, and noise issues are just some of the concerns surrounding our Lake. Late this summer a joint decision between the Candlewood Lake Authority and the five city/towns that surround the Lake was made to shut down the various islands dotting the Lake. The islands were closed, fenced and mountains of trash/debris/hazardous sewage removed. For many of us, this was a welcome relief as the islands had become a source of uncontrolled partying, dumping and noise. I understand that at the last CLA meeting held earlier this month, these closures will extend through the summer of 2026. While I'm certain this will be a disappointment for some, I believe the vast majority of those of us who live on and regularly use the Lake are applauding this decision. If boaters can't exercise common sense and respect for others, then the only solution is to regulate access.

This is the exact sentiment I have about wake boats. These boats are designed to create a large, unnatural wake that can be "surfed". Unfortunately, it is not just the individual boat that experiences this wake. Boats that are quietly anchored, SUP/kayaks paddling, and other watercraft get violently bounced long after the wake boat has passed by. While Candlewood is deeper than other lakes, the wake created still causes disturbances to the lake floor - disturbing potentially toxic material to the surface water that others use to swim in, and fish/wildlife to live in. The damage to seawalls, docks and natural riparian barriers is real.

While it's a gross generalization, unfortunately these wake boats also have a culture of blasting loud music to energize their surfer. This music and accompanying bass "beat" also carry across the water leaving other boaters listening to a myriad of private concerts - whether willing or not.

Recently, Lake Waramaug in Litchfield County issued a ban on wake surfing. This initiative was widely supported by voters in all of the towns surrounding Lake Waramaug. Similar legislation is being considered for Bantam Lake.

While I'm not a fan of unnecessary regulation, I believe it's time to consider wake boat regulations for water bodies statewide. Wake surfing should be restricted to areas that can better support wake boats (e.g. deeper, less populated water bodies) much like competition water skiing was in years past. Wake boats, while not actively participating in wake surfing, should not be allowed to operate at full ballast so as to minimize wake created. Music decibels should be at a level so as to

minimally affect other watercraft and lake residents in the vicinity. Again, If boaters can't exercise common sense and respect for others, then the only solution is to regulate access.

Again, I appreciate your interest in community input. I look forward to what comes next.

Most sincerely,

Kelley Lanahan
7 Hillcrest Road
Danbury, CT 06811

From: Denise Pratt <denisepratt1722@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 3:47 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings from Highland Lake,

I would appreciate and encourage a Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study to be performed at Highland Lake.

The lake has suffered from shoreline erosion as Highland Lake is rather "skinny". We have lost shoreline since the introduction of wake surfing at Highland Lake. Additionally, wall repairs have been necessary from overflowing waves that only occur with Wake Boats. These waves topple over the top of the walls. Over time the large waves are pulling out rocks/walls.

Weed growth has dramatically increased, possibly from turbulence and churning from 3-4' wakes? A study would be helpful.

Thank you for your consideration

From: Nancy Alchek <nancy@alchek.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 5:08 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

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-
- The volume of the
- comments matter. That means your spouses, your children, your family members, colleagues or friends in Connecticut – they should all submit unique individual comments. Four names at the bottom of one letter will still only be counted as one letter. Instead,
- we need to show quantity.
-
-
-
- If applicable, identify
- yourself as a Connecticut resident or homeowner.
-
-
-
- Be explicit that you
- are a supporter of wake surfing and believe it should continue.
-
-
-
- Call for a streamlined
- statewide policy for Connecticut’s waterways and a prohibition on municipal bans, so that there is a uniform approach that allows wake surfing to continue.
-
-
-
- Make clear that you
- are a supporter of the environment, of science and facts, and of the State stepping in so that local towns do not implement a hodgepodge of varying regulations that are not informed by science or facts.
-

-
-
-
- Our message in that
- campaign is simple: Connecticut needs common—and common-sense—standards for wakesurfing rather than individual, misguided town-by-town regulations. The state should act because towns are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively understand the issue, the science, or the facts. It's why we need DEEP to step in.
-

Lake Waramaug-Specific Messaging for Your Consideration

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-
- Lake Waramaug in Connecticut
- has always been an incredibly special place for me. I come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and go wake surfing.
-
-
-
- Unfortunately, local
- special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug.
-
-
-
- This issue has impacted
- me firsthand. As a boat owner, I invested in my boat so my family, friends, and community can enjoy this activity. Now, I can no longer use it for its intended purpose.
-
-
-
- I will have to either
- sell my boat—and likely lose much of the money I put into it—or move it to another lake. Doing that risks serious biological and environmental risks, including the spread of invasive species that can harm native ecosystems, outcompete local wildlife, and degrade
- water quality. By banning wake surfing, local officials have unwittingly created potential environmental harm.

-
-
-
- I shouldn't have to
- suffer a financial loss—especially when local officials refused to understand the issue or look at the facts. DEEP should remove the ability of local towns to pass regulations.
-
-
-
- We cannot have individual,
- disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise,
- enjoyment, and memories.
-
-
-
- What we need is a
- smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.
-
-
-
- It's very important
- to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.
-

From: Sally Lawrence <seawd40@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 9:15 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject:

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sally Lawrence
Greenwich,CT
seawd40@gmail.com

From: Donna Densel <donnadensel@aol.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 6:40 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: Vicki Craver <vcraver@mac.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 9:51 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Vicki
Riverside,CT
vcraver@mac.com

From: Susan Fahey <susanfaheyrtm@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 9:56 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

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Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: Scott Fahey <csfahey@optonline.net>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 9:48 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Fahey

Greenwich,CT

csfahey@optonline.net

From: grace.fahey3@gmail.com <grace.fahey3@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 10:08 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: James Kosann <jkosann007@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 11:19 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As a Connecticut homeowner directly on Lake Waramaug, I watch the activity of the lake firsthand. The lake is a special place in which families can enjoy swimming, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, water skiing, and wake surfing. These activities are all enjoyed by the various participants, and the beauty of the lake can be shared by all.

Over the past year, the scare tactics used by those against wake surfing have stirred up tremendous controversy — but, it definitely has not unduly stirred up the lake. The lake is as healthy as ever.

As we sit lakeside, we can watch how much activity goes by our house. And, the TRUTH IS: there are maybe a couple of boats wake surfing for a COUPLE of hours (like 2-4pm) for 1-2 days per week for approximately 7-8 weeks.

EVEN holidays and holiday weeks show EXTREMELY LOW VOLUME OF wake surfing activity.

We want to keep the lake pristine, and we are looking forward to a study to analyze the science behind the desire to ban this beloved activity.

We invested in Lake Waramaug, in our house and land, in Connecticut, and in our wake-surfing boat, and it would be a disappointment if we were not able to exercise this right to use our boat.

We look forward to DEEP methodically evaluating the situation and the science, and then issuing a state-wide consistent message.

Many thanks,
James Kosann

From: Amy Keohane <amykeohane@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 11:47 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Support for Wake Surfing and Statewide Standards

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Officials,

As a Connecticut resident and a strong supporter of both environmental protection and fact-based policymaking, I urge DEEP to establish a uniform statewide policy for wake surfing and to prohibit municipal bans that create a confusing and unscientific patchwork of regulations.

I am a supporter of wake surfing and believe it should continue in Connecticut. On Lake Waramaug, where we have visited with friends who spend a lot of time wake surfing, local officials have unfortunately adopted overly restrictive measures that have effectively banned this safe and enjoyable activity. These decisions were driven by misinformation rather than science.

We need common and common-sense statewide standards that balance recreation and environmental stewardship, guided by science and data—not by fear or local special interests.

Please act to ensure that wake surfing remains part of Connecticut's outdoor traditions for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Amy Ford Keohane
Riverside, CT

From: Jill Ciporin <jciporin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 12:15 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.
October 19, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident who lives near and enjoys Connecticut's waterways, I'm writing to urge DEEP to adopt a statewide, science-based policy for wake surfing.

We cannot continue with a patchwork of inconsistent town-by-town regulations where the activity is allowed in one town but banned in another. This disjointed approach creates confusion, limits access, and is often driven by misinformation rather than facts.

Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that brings Connecticut residents together and encourages healthy, outdoor recreation. I support protecting our water and also believe people should have the freedom to enjoy their recreation of choice statewide.

I'm a strong supporter of both environmental protection and organizations like Save The Sound that advocate for clean waterways and science-based stewardship. That's exactly why I believe in the need for a uniform, balanced approach that prohibits local bans, ensures fair, fact-based regulation across Connecticut, and crafted to protect both our natural resources and our shared enjoyment of them.

Sincerely,

Jill Ciporin
27 Meadow Lane
Greenwich, CT
jciporin@gmail.com

--

Jill Bayer Ciporin
Greenwich, CT
203-856-8199 (c)

From: sanjeevmehra17@icloud.com <sanjeevmehra17@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 1:11 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: WAKE Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Sanjeev
Greenwich,CT
sanjeevmehra17@icloud.com

Sanjeev Mehra
(917) 612 5357

From: Susan <susanbevan416@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 3:28 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

The ban on wake surfing on Lake Waramaug is not based on any communicated objective criteria.

Wake surfing is a wholesome family activity that you should be PROMOTING, not banning.

A DEEP study should precede any action in order that an informed decision supports the regulation of any water activity. Whatever objective you are attempting to achieve, statewide guidelines based on facts and evidence is a far better basis for any actions. Is the next step banning all motorized boats? Is this regulatory creep? More study and better communication with the public is necessary before taking such a significant action.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan

Greenwich, CT

sjb41690@aol.com

From: Will Kosann <wkosann@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 3:57 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Team,

I'm writing to express my strong support for continuing to allow wake surfing on Lake Waramaug and for creating fair, science-based statewide regulations for this activity.

Lake Waramaug is an incredibly special place for my family. We spend time together on the water—swimming, paddle boarding, and wake surfing—and have always been mindful of sharing the lake respectfully with others. The recent push to ban wake surfing locally is disheartening and, in my experience, not supported by the actual conditions on the lake. The activity occurs infrequently, for just a few hours a week during the summer, and has not negatively impacted the lake's health or enjoyment for others.

Wake surfing brings families and friends together and helps people stay active while appreciating Connecticut's natural beauty. I urge DEEP to ensure that decisions about wake surfing are based on data and environmental science—not fear or misinformation—and to establish a consistent statewide approach rather than a patchwork of town-by-town bans.

Thank you for your careful study and for considering voices like mine that hope to see this safe, responsible activity continue on our lakes.

Best,
William Kosann

From: Lisa Quackenbush <lisa@sagesearchadvisors.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 7:36 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Lisa

Stamford ,CT

lisaquack3@gmail.com

From: Timothy Tyre <skippee47@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:41 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Charles Luebke <charles@terravigilis.com>; Howard Kaney <howard@terravigilis.com>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wake Surfing Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for the solicitation regarding comments on wake boat and wake surf impacts to CT lakes. Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Regards

Tim Tyre, PhD

Terra Vigilis Environmental Services Group CEO Emeritus



Terra Vigils - TVES
DEEP Comment Req

From: KATHY HEIDT <klheidt@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 9:20 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathy
Greenwich,CT
klheidt@aol.com

From: Lisa Stuart <lisagstuart@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:43 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Lisa Stuart and I live at 157 N Shore Road on Lake Waramaug. My husband Scott and I have raised our four children on the lake for 16 years. We water ski, wakeboard, wake surf, bike, hike and run around the lake. Wake surfing has been incredibly fun for my kids to learn, and all six members of my family do it. I'm 65 years old and I love it.

I'm grateful DEEP is looking into a sensible policy that protects our lake and protects everyone's activities on the lake. I am not a fan of tubing or jet skis, but I know others are, while I love wake surfing. It's important to respect everyone's choices and enjoy the lake as a community. Sincerely,
Lisa Stuart

From: Kathleen Atkins <atkins.kathleen6@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:45 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Kathleen
Wahington,CT
atkins.kathleen6@gmail.com

From: Kelly Winn <kellyforthewinn@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 10:12 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I grew up on Lake Lillinonah and now have the privilege of raising my kids here. My family and I see firsthand how people use and care for our lake, and I care deeply about both its preservation and its shared enjoyment. As both a waterfront resident and a lifelong water-sport enthusiast, I support allowing wakesurfing boats to continue operating on the lake. Wakesurfing is a fun, inclusive, and low-impact activity that people of all ages and abilities can safely enjoy.

While I understand concerns about shoreline erosion, I believe the lake's consistently high water levels and poor stormwater drainage would cause greater harm than a handful of boats on summer weekends. When I was growing up, the water level was kept a few feet lower; many properties had beaches that are now permanently submerged. This seems to me a far more constant pressure on the shoreline than occasional boat waves. Additionally, improving stormwater management should be addressed. Along Lillinonah Drive, for example, several properties sustained significant damage during recent storms at outfalls and above, due to inadequate infrastructure. If erosion is the true concern, then lowering the lake level, even slightly, and improving drainage would likely have a far greater long-term impact on protecting the shoreline than restricting a small number of recreational boats.

If the concern is recreation and safety, there are other activities that create more consistent disturbance. Packs of jet skis frequently speed down the lake, weaving between boats and operating too close to other vessels, docks, and shorelines. Fishing boats enter family swimming areas and often leave hooks and lines behind.

If the goal is to protect Lake Lillinonah, I'd suggest addressing the high water levels and drainage issues, and not limiting families from enjoying wakesurfing. If we want to improve the overall quality of the time spent on the lake, then with the reasonable enforcement of existing distance rules, all lake users- including wakesurfers - can coexist safely and responsibly. Our community is full of people who care deeply about preserving the beauty of Lake Lillinonah while also enjoying it to its fullest.

Thank you for your time and for considering a balanced approach that supports safety, fairness, and recreation for all.

Sincerely,

Kelly Winn

Waterfront Property Owner

P.S. We don't own a wake boat - just a deep appreciation for the lake and all who enjoy it responsibly.

From: Carin Hermann <cbhc0204@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:30 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Surf and Wake Boat

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Carin Hermann
Washington, CT
cbhc0204@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

From: jackie schwartz <freshmeadowdesign@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:05 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline

Weston,CT

freshmeadowdesign@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise Pratt <denisepratt1722@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 4:43 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>; Francis, Peter <Peter.Francis@ct.gov>

Subject: Re: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Adding Peter Francis. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

> On Oct 18, 2025, at 3:46 PM, Denise Pratt <denisepratt1722@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Greetings from Highland Lake,

>

> I would appreciate and encourage a Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study to be performed at Highland Lake.

>

> The lake has suffered from shoreline erosion as Highland Lake is rather "skinny". We have lost shoreline since the introduction of wake surfing at Highland Lake. Additionally, wall repairs have been necessary from overflowing waves that only occur with Wake Boats. These waves topple over the top of the walls. Over time the large waves are pulling out rocks/walls.

>

> Weed growth has dramatically increased, possibly from turbulence and churning from 3-4' wakes? A study would be helpful.

>

> Thank you for your consideration.

From: Charlie Better <cbetter94@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 4:25 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a strong supporter of wakesurfing and believe it should continue, especially on Lake Waramaug. Wakesurfing with family and friends is among my favorite traditions that I look forward to every summer. This is part of what draws me to invest my time and resources in Lichfield County.

I support the call for a prohibition on municipal bans.

I am a strong supporter of the environment, and the facts suggest that wakesurfing is clearly safe and does not damage our beautiful waterways.

The State of Connecticut must step in to prevent local towns from implementing nonsensical policies that are not backed by science and facts.

Please help enforce common sense standards so we can continue enjoying watersports, including wakesurfing, on the lakes we love.

Thank you,
Charlie Better
cbetter94@gmail.com

From: John Guth, PE <jguth@guthdeconzo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 6:54 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: surfing boats on lake lillinonah

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I urge DEEP, First Light Power and the LLA to ban wake surfing, wake surf boats and any boat over 25 feet from Lake Lillinonah. In addition, I urge these organizations to institute a launch charge for anyone who puts in a boat/jet ski in the lake using one of the state launches.

Lake Lillinonah is an unusual lake in that it is so narrow in so many sections.

Wake boats/wake surfing are threatening to destroy the beauty and wildlife of Lake Lillinonah, and create a safety hazard for anyone else using the lake.

These boats this activity create massive, often 4-5 foot, waves that pummel the shore and cause erosion. There are many sections where the shore line has been "dug out" creating cave-like formations. As a result, this damages the root structure of trees along the shore, which can eventually cause the tree to fall into the lake causing hazards for boats. The erosion also destroys the natural habitat of many animals/birds that live on the lake, including otters.

In addition, the waves created by these boats/this activity damages docks and boats and other water equipment kept on the lake. I have seen my dock catapult chairs 3' into the air from large waves hitting the dock. Some people have even seen their boats or kayaks become untethered due to the constant bouncing around from the huge waves.

Finally the waves created by these boats/this activity endanger those using the lake for other activities on the lake, including rowing, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming and water skiing. We have also had our boat "swamped" with up to 8" of water caused by waves created by wake surfing boats.

With regard to charging a fee for anyone to launch a boat or jet ski at one of the state launches on the lake, doing so would protect the lake from overuse and raise funds that could be used to continue to improve the water quality and overall environment of the lake, including shoreline management. Many CT state beaches charge a parking fee. I would urge DEEP/First Light Power/LLA to institute a launch fee of between \$25 (weekday) to \$50 (weekends) on Lake Lillinonah. I have observed that many of the boaters/jet skiers who use the launches have little respect for the lake, do not follow safe boating rules, drive in excess of a reasonable speed and especially with the jet skiers, harass other boaters on the lake by driving in wide formations of 3-5 jet skiers which make it difficult for other boats to pass them in either direction. Charging a launch fee would enable people to use the lake but would reduce the amount of boat/watercraft traffic, helping to protect the lake from overuse. In addition, as other lakes such as Lake Waramaug ban wake boats/wake surfing, this will protect Lake Lillinonah by discouraging wake boat owners from coming to Lake Lillinonah.

I would be happy to discuss this further with anyone at DEEP/First Light Power/LLA.
John Guth

From: Protect Lake Waramaug <main@protectlakewaramaug.org>

Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 12:18 PM

To: Trumble, Mason <Mason.Trumble@ct.gov>

Cc: Birenboim, Bruce <bbirenboim@paulweiss.com>; Kelly Williams <kellywilliams77@icloud.com>

Subject: Re: Supplemental Letter in support of ordinance to ban wake surfing on Lake Waramaug

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Trumble,

Thank you for notifying our group that DEEP approved the wake surfing ordinance regarding on Lake Waramaug. We appreciate DEEP's statutory review.

We are aware that DEEP also posted a NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT SCOPE OF WAKE BOAT & WAKESURF STUDY, with a deadline of October 22. Our present intention is to submit appropriate comments.

As a matter of process, does DEEP post public submissions as they come in or are all comments withheld until after the submission deadline? The answer might affect the timing of our submission.

Regards,
Jehv Gold

From: Brian Roberts <briancharlesroberts@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 3:48 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern:

Northwest Connecticut and the surrounding areas (particularly Lake Waramaug) have always been an incredibly special place for me and my partner (who grew up just west of the lake). We have spent so much time on the lake boating, fishing, and wake surfing and we have decided to build a house in Kent so that we could enjoy more frequently!

Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban wake surfing (a safe recreational activity) on Lake Waramaug. In our opinion, we cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

We are just starting framing for our house and hope that this ban on wake surfing can be resolved using common sense. What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together. It's very important to us to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Brian Roberts & Devon Oemcke

Kent, CT

From: lucy williams <lucypearlenewilliams@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 3:00 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Team,

I hope you're well. I'm writing with a quick favor and a heartfelt request.

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is conducting a study to better understand wake surfing. If you're not familiar, wake surfing is one of the fastest-growing water sports in the country. It's something my family and I love. It brings people together, builds community, and supports local jobs and small businesses across Connecticut. I'm asking for your help to protect access to wake surfing in our state.

Right now, different towns are creating their own rules, and some have even banned wake surfing altogether. That means it could be allowed on one lake but banned on another that's basically the same. It just doesn't make sense. The state needs a single, clear policy that lets wake surfing continue safely and consistently, without town-by-town restrictions that are not based on science or facts.

I care deeply about Connecticut's lakes and the environment. I want decisions about our waterways to be guided by facts, not fear. Local towns often don't have the resources or expertise to develop or enforce sound boating policies, which is why DEEP's leadership is so important.

This issue has affected me personally at Lake Waramaug. My family and I have spent years there, enjoying time together on the water. Earlier this year, local groups pushed for restrictions that banned wake surfing, even though it's a safe and responsible activity. I invested in my boat for that purpose, and now I can't use it. My only options are to sell it at a loss or move it to another lake, which actually increases the risk of spreading invasive species between lakes. That's the opposite of good environmental policy.

Wake surfing is a positive, family-centered activity that brings people joy and gets them outdoors. Please support a fair, science-based statewide policy that allows wake surfing to continue in Connecticut and prevents towns from enacting their own bans.

Thank you for your time and for considering this issue carefully.

Warmly,

Lucy Williams
(New Preston, CT)

--

Lucy Williams
lucypearlenewilliams@gmail.com
203.969.4003

From: paula madoff <paulamadoff@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 9:42 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Paula
New York,CT
paulamadoff@gmail.com

--

Paula Madoff
917-209-2585

From: paula madoff <paulamadoff@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 9:49 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

-
-
- Lake Waramaug in Connecticut has always been an incredibly special place for me. I come
- to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and go wake surfing.
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-
-
- Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote
- irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive
- measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug.
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- This issue has impacted me firsthand. As a boat owner, I invested in my boat so my family,
- friends, and community can enjoy this activity. Now, I can no longer use it for its intended
- purpose.
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- I will have to either sell my boat—and likely lose much of the money I put into it—or
- move it to another lake. Doing that risks serious biological and environmental risks,
- including the spread of invasive species that can harm native ecosystems, outcompete local
- wildlife, and degrade water quality. By banning wake surfing, local officials have
- unwittingly created potential environmental harm.
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- I shouldn't have to suffer a financial loss—especially when local officials refused to
- understand the issue or look at the facts. DEEP should remove the ability of local towns to
- pass regulations.
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- We cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is

- legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.
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- What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut,
- so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.
-
-
-
- It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose
- to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.
-

Sincerely,
Alexander Madoff
917-580-1729

From: Quentin Piliero <qjb1999@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 10:11 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senator,

As an avid wake boat and wakesurf enthusiast, I write to bring your attention to the environmental risks — and the ways we can responsibly mitigate them. Research shows that when operated too close to shore or in shallow waters, wake-enhanced boats can stir up lake or riverbeds, resuspend sediments, release nutrients (such as phosphorus), erode shorelines, and harm aquatic vegetation and fish habitat. In contrast, studies using computational fluid dynamics have demonstrated that when wake surfing is conducted at least ~200 feet from shore in water depths of 10 feet or more, the effects on shorelines and bottom habitats become minimal.

I believe there is a balanced policy path that protects our environment without banning the sport altogether: by establishing setback distances, minimum depth requirements, and operator education. I respectfully encourage your office to consider legislation supporting such “best practice” regulatory frameworks for wake boating and wakesurfing in our state’s waterways.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Quentin Piliero
130 Smith Hill Rd
Winsted CT 06098

<https://www.fox9.com/news/lake-minnetonka-wakesurfing-boat-impact-videos>

[https://wigreenfire.org/2019/wp-](https://wigreenfire.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/WakeBoatsLakeEcosystemHealth_WGF-May2024_Final.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[content/uploads/2024/05/WakeBoatsLakeEcosystemHealth_WGF-](https://wigreenfire.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/WakeBoatsLakeEcosystemHealth_WGF-May2024_Final.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[May2024_Final.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://wigreenfire.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/WakeBoatsLakeEcosystemHealth_WGF-May2024_Final.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/A%2BLiterature%2BReview%2Bof%2BWake%2BBoat%2BEffects%2Bon%2BAquatic%2BHabitat/1_i7ilkapd?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://www.wpr.org/news/wake-boats-waves-wisconsin-lakes-regulations?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://boatingindustry.com/news/2022/04/26/new-peer-reviewed-paper-analyzes-wakesurfing-shore-impact/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation?paperid=116094&utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt671/files/inline-documents/sonh/minnesota-2022-wake-boat-faqs.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

From: Leonard Veneziano <lveneziano@kentrecoveryservices.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 10:44 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: RE: Wake Surfing Proposed Ban on Lake Waramaug

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

- Lake Waramaug in Connecticut has always been an incredibly special place for me. I come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and go wake surfing. I also own a house on the lake.
- Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug.
- This issue has impacted me firsthand. As both a boat, and homeowner, I invested in my boat so my family, friends, and community can enjoy this activity. Now, I can no longer use it for its intended purpose.
- I will have to either sell my boat—and likely lose much of the money I put into it—or move it to another lake. Doing that risks serious biological and environmental risks, including the spread of invasive species that can harm native ecosystems, outcompete local wildlife, and degrade water quality. By banning wake surfing, local officials have unwittingly created potential environmental harm.
- I shouldn't have to suffer a financial loss—especially when local officials refused to understand the issue or look at the facts. DEEP should remove the ability of local towns to pass regulations. Especially given, that it does not directly impact those that live off the lake.
- We cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.
- What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.
- It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Best regards,

Lenny Veneziano
Managing Director

From: Georgia Williams <georgiacwilliams@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 11:08 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Georgia
Washington,CT
georgiacwilliams@icloud.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Anthony Mann <amann@ej1899.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:10 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tony Mann and I own a home in the Lake Waramaug community and another in Greenwich, CT.

Lake Waramaug has always been an incredibly special place for me. I come to the lake to spend time with family and friends, to enjoy nature, and go wake surfing.

Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug.

This issue has impacted me firsthand. As a boat owner, I invested in my boats so my family, friends, and community can enjoy this activity. Now, I can no longer use them for their intended purpose.

I will have to either sell my boats—and likely lose much of the money I put into it—or move them to another lake. Doing that risks serious biological and environmental risks, including the spread of invasive species that can harm native ecosystems, outcompete local wildlife, and degrade water quality. By banning wake surfing, local officials have unwittingly created potential environmental harm.

I shouldn't have to suffer a financial loss—especially when local officials refused to understand the issue or look at the facts. DEEP should remove the ability of local towns to pass regulations.

We cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.

Thanks,



Anthony Mann

**Chief Executive Officer
Executive Management**

Cell: [917-848-0891](tel:917-848-0891)

Main: [718-786-9400](tel:718-786-9400) Ext. 306

ej1899.com

From: Jon Foster <jonfoster6@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:15 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jon

Warren,CT

jonfoster6@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bill Hubric <hubricbill@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:36 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day,

Thank you for conducting this survey.

My wife and I are waterfront home owners on Candlewood Lake in New Milford. A wonderful place to live.

Wake Boats and wake surfing continues to damage our sea wall and dock. Year after year we have to do expensive repairs to both. This condition exists for each of our neighbors. Additionally, our community docks are also damaged every year.

We understand everyone deserves to enjoy our lake in their own way, but the damage these crafts are making crosses the line. These boat manufacturers frequently advertise their boats will make 4 foot wakes. Really, 4 foot wakes on a lake? This isn't the ocean. These wakes are not only causing property damage but additionally are creating unsafe conditions on our lake. The paddle boards, Canoers, kayakers, fishermen, swimmers, and children trying to enjoy some beach time also should be able to enjoy their time on and in the lake. So many people are suffering so such a few can do this.

Thoughts:

Increasing their distance to shore and other crafts will not work because 4 foot wakes don't dissipate that quickly on narrow lakes. The waves hit the shoreline / sea walls and return to the lake causing additional damage and unsafe conditions.

Saying "boaters are responsible for their wakes" does not makes sense when there are a dozen of them going back in front of your Docks and Shoreline all day long. No one can possibly tell who is responsible for the conditions they each cause.

Education doesn't work for people who believe they have the right to do this and are not concerned about the conditions they create. They were already explained this when they went through the training to get their boating license.

Possibly areas of the lake could be designated "safe areas" for these boats to operate.

Please stop the wake-boats and surfers from creating this damage and causing the unsafe condition.

Thank you,

Bill Hubric

From: Daniel Price <dprice@surmount.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:40 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Danny Price. My in-laws own homes in both the Lake Waramaug community and in Greenwich, CT.

Lake Waramaug has always held a special place in my life. It's where I spend time with family and friends, enjoy nature, and go wake surfing—a safe and rewarding activity that connects us to the outdoors and each other.

Unfortunately, recent local actions—driven by misinformation and fear—have resulted in restrictive measures that ban wake surfing on Lake Waramaug. This has had a direct impact on me and many others who have responsibly enjoyed this sport for years.

As an avid boat user, I have invested significantly so that my family, friends, and community could safely enjoy wake surfing. Now, that investment is effectively lost. My only options are to sell my boats at a likely loss or relocate them to another lake, which introduces real biological and environmental risks, including the potential spread of invasive species that threaten water quality and native ecosystems. Ironically, these local bans could create the very environmental harm they claim to prevent.

No resident should face a financial or recreational penalty because local officials acted without a clear understanding of the facts. I strongly urge DEEP to reconsider allowing individual towns to impose conflicting restrictions. Connecticut needs a unified, statewide policy that reflects science, safety, and environmental responsibility—not fear or misinformation.

Wake surfing is a safe and sustainable activity that encourages fitness, family connection, and enjoyment of our natural resources. I hope the state will adopt a balanced, fair, and consistent approach to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy Connecticut's lakes responsibly. As a soon-to-be first time father, I hope my daughter can enjoy the same activities on Lake Waramaug I have enjoyed in my ten plus years of recreation there.

Protecting our waters and preserving recreational freedom are both vital—and entirely compatible goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Danny Price

From: Jordan Zaken <jzaken@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:55 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Members of DEEP,

I am a longtime Washington, Connecticut resident and homeowner writing to express my strong support for wake surfing and my deep concern over recent local efforts to restrict or ban this safe, family-oriented activity.

As both an environmental advocate and a believer in science-based policy-making, I urge the State of Connecticut and DEEP to establish a streamlined, statewide policy for wake surfing and to prohibit municipal bans that create a confusing patchwork of inconsistent and often misguided local rules. Connecticut needs consistent—and common-sense—standards rooted in facts, not fear. Local towns simply do not have the resources, expertise, or scientific grounding to effectively assess this issue. That is precisely why DEEP's leadership is so critical.

Lake Waramaug has always been an incredibly special place for me—a spot where I've gathered with family and friends to enjoy nature, the water, and the shared joy of wake surfing. Unfortunately, local special interests have used misinformation and scare tactics to push through extreme restrictions earlier this year that now prohibit this responsible form of recreation.

This decision has had a real impact on me personally as well as my family. As a boat owner, I invested significant resources so my family and community could enjoy wake surfing safely and responsibly. Now, that investment has been rendered useless. I'm left with the difficult choice of selling my boat—at a significant financial loss—or relocating it to another lake, which ironically increases the risk of spreading invasive species and causing environmental harm. By banning wake surfing locally, officials have unintentionally created more ecological risk, not less.

Connecticut should not allow individual towns to impose their own bans on an activity that is both safe and environmentally responsible. We need one fair, balanced, and statewide approach—a policy that protects our lakes, ensures environmental stewardship, and also allows residents to enjoy the recreational opportunities that make our communities vibrant.

I hope DEEP will take action to ensure a uniform, science-driven policy that supports both environmental protection and the freedom for responsible recreation across all of Connecticut's waterways.

Thank you for your attention and for your commitment to fairness, consistency, and fact-based governance.

Sincerely,
Jordan Zaken
199 West Shore Rd

New Preston, CT 06777

From: Samantha Forbes <sheros10@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:57 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

We are Candlewood lakefront property owners who are strongly opposed to bans, in this case a potential ban on wake surfing boats. That said, there is much to be desired for lake etiquette or rules *that are strongly enforced* and that minimize or prevent property damage, keep the lake safe and enjoyable for calmer activities such as fishing and kayaking, and protecting the lakes' natural resources like the islands, the water quality, etc. Establishing zones for wake surfing (i.e not at narrower, shallower parts of the lake or coves) and buffer distances, and possibly restricting enhancement devices that increase the force and reach of those waves are all some potential responses that we would support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sam and Brendan

From: Will Cook <willetcook@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:08 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

My wife and I own a lakefront property at 248 West Shore Road in New Preston. We bought the home in 2017. We spend time at the lake in both the summer and the winter with our kids, extended family, and friends. We adore Lake Waramaug and the surrounding area.

We are writing to give you our thoughts on the recent wakesurfing boat ban on Waramaug.

While we own a waterski boat, it is not a wakesurfing boat. So in theory, we don't have a dog in this hunt. That said, we **OPPOSE** the wakesurfing ban, as well as the process by which it was conducted.

We are big supporters of the environment and we certainly do not want to see Waramaug harmed. That said, we believe the best way to ensure this is for Connecticut to have a uniform set of common sense regulations across lakes, and not just let each lake come up with their own set of rules, which may or may not be based in science. We believe there can be a reasonable set of guidelines that both protect the environment but also allow for responsible wakesurfing.

We hope Connecticut takes on this leadership role and sets reasonable rules and regulations for all lakes to follow.

Thank you.

Will & Maggie Cook

248 West Shore Road, New Preston, CT

From: Benjamin Schwartz <ben.schwartz5@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:26 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon - I am deeply concerned about the wake surf ban on Lake Waramaug in New Preston CT given it was a corrupt process run by Jim Britton and should be studied and inspected thoroughly. The voting process was rigged and it was a total disaster, especially because there was no science behind the ban. The Terra Vigilis study didn't even recommend a ban, this is a terrible use of taxpayer dollars and rigged!!

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-
- Unfortunately, local special interests have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote
- irresponsible bans, and earlier this year, they pushed through incredibly restrictive measures to ban this safe recreational activity on Lake Waramaug.
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-
-
- This issue has impacted me firsthand. As a boat owner, I invested in my boat so my family,
- friends, and community can enjoy this activity. Now, I can no longer use it for its intended purpose.
-
-
-
- I will have to either sell my boat—and likely lose much of the money I put into it—or
- move it to another lake. Doing that risks serious biological and environmental risks, including the spread of invasive species that can harm native ecosystems, outcompete local wildlife, and degrade water quality. By banning wake surfing, local officials have
- unwittingly created potential environmental harm.
-
-
-
- I shouldn't have to suffer a financial loss—especially when local officials refused to
- understand the issue or look at the facts. DEEP should remove the ability of local towns to pass regulations.
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-
-
- We cannot have individual, disparate, town-by-town regulations, where wake surfing is
- legal in one town but outlawed in another. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. Wake surfing is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.
-
-
-

- **What we need is a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulate wake surfing in Connecticut,**
- **so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.**
-
-
-
- **It's very important to me to protect our waters and also to ensure people can choose**
- **to enjoy their recreation of choice across Connecticut.**
-

--

Benjamin Schwartz
+1 617-413-0995

From: Renny Lewis <reynolds.e.lewis@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:54 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Renny

Greenwich,CT

reynolds.e.lewis@gmail.com

From: Heath Watkin <heath@watkin.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:55 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a Connecticut homeowner and boat owner. I live on Lake Waramaug and use the lake almost every day for swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, waterskiing and tubing. While I do not wake surf myself, I believe that wake surfing should be allowed and that the ban on it on Lake Waramaug was arbitrary and NOT based on science. I have read the science and at best it is inconclusive. I am concerned that a few motivated citizens can deprive many others of safe enjoyment on our lake. If this initial attack is on wake surfing, what will prevent the same attack on waterskiing or tubing or other activities? For these reasons, I am against the ban of wake surfing and would look to find compromise solutions, of which there are many, yet none of which were considered or voted on.

We should have a streamlined statewide policy for Connecticut's waterways and a prohibition on municipal bans, so that there is a uniform approach that allows wake surfing to continue. To be clear, as a user of our lake daily, I have invested heavily in its safety and cleanliness. I am a strong supporter of the environment, of science and facts, and of the State stepping in so that local towns do not implement a hodgepodge of varying regulations that are not informed by science or facts.

Thank you,

-- Heath Watkin

From: Alex Quinn <alexq19@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:56 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Alex

New Preston,CT

alexhquinn@gmail.com

From: Nicole Murphy <nfmurph@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 5:26 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

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I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Nicole
Greenwich,CT
nfmurph@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Georgia Williams <georgiacwilliams@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 5:25 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

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Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Georgia
Washington ,CT
georgiacwilliams@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Traci Bentzen <traci.bentzen@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 5:41 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Traci

From: Meredith Kosann <drkosann@skinfocused.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 5:50 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As a Connecticut homeowner directly on Lake Waramaug, I watch the activity of the lake firsthand. The lake is a special place in which families can enjoy swimming, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, water skiing, and wake surfing. These activities are all enjoyed by the various participants, and the beauty of the lake can be shared by all.

Over the past year, the scare tactics used by those against wake surfing have stirred up tremendous controversy — but, it definitely has not unduly stirred up the lake. The lake is as healthy as ever.

As we sit lakeside, we can watch how much activity goes by our house. And, the TRUTH IS: there are maybe a couple of boats wake surfing for a COUPLE of hours (like 2-4pm) for 1-2 days per week for approximately 7-8 weeks.

EVEN holidays and holiday weeks show EXTREMELY LOW VOLUME OF wake surfing activity.

We want to keep the lake pristine, and we are looking forward to a study to analyze the science behind the desire to ban this beloved activity.

We invested in Lake Waramaug, in our house and land, in Connecticut, and in our wake-surfing boat, and it would be a disappointment if we were not able to exercise this right to use our boat.

We look forward to DEEP methodically evaluating the situation and the science, and then issuing a state-wide consistent message.

Many thanks,
Meredith Kosann

Meredith Kosann MD FAAD
Skinfocused Dermatology
150 Purchase Street
Suites 10/12
Rye, New York 10580
914.908.3376

From: Peter Kosann <pkosann@a5mkmanagement.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 7:08 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

Our family owns a home directly on Lake Waramaug. We love the lake and community.

We invested in our home with the expectation that we would be able to water sport, buying a boat for this purpose -- including the right to wakesurf.

Wakesurfing is a safe and family oriented activity -- whereby the boat generally goes less than 12 miles per hour.

From our vista from our porch looking at the lake, we are mystified by the opposition, knowing that the lake gets extremely limited motor boat usage. We spent most of our summer and most of the weekends on Lake Waramaug and the hours of boat usage for wake surfing is also so little if cannot be accounted; literally as little as 2-3 hours perhaps only 20 times per year.

Please continue to allow us and neighbors the right to use of boat and full water sports.

Thank you

Peter Kosann / Managing Partner

A5mkManagement

[914-610-4954](tel:914-610-4954)

From: Gabriella Sansaricq <gsansaricq@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 8:52 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gabriella
New Preston,CT
gabsansx3@aim.com

From: Isabella Tropeano <isabellamtropeano@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 8:53 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

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That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bella

New Preston ,CT

irapp@onesothebysrealty.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Belinda Ojeda <belindaojeda10@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 8:54 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Belinda
new preston,CT
belbadillo@aol.com

Belinda Ojeda

From: Tyler Mackesy <ts.mackesy@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 9:07 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Tyler Mackesy

New Preston Marble Dale, CT

ts.mackesy@gmail.com

From: Better, James <better@kohlberg.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 9:51 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see attached input into DEEP Wake boat and Wake Surf Study

James Better

Mobile: 203-536-2728



Letter to DEEP
regarding Wake Bo:

From: Sara Silvestri <saraasilvestri@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 9:34 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

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Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Sara
New preston,CT
saraasilvestri@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Aidan Williams <awill1801@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 9:38 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

We need to look at the consultants results - the taxpayers money was spent, and the decision went against the science that we all payed for. The videos posted by the wake banning Instagram account weren't even of lake Waramaug which is a head scratcher to say the least.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

Aidan
New preston,CT
aidansarnoffwilliams@gmail.com

Best,

Aidan

From: Eric Schwartz <eschwartz23@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:34 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Eric
New Preston, CT

From: Mary Kate O'Neill <mko2013@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 7:34 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

As a resident of our state and a boat owner, I am writing to strongly urge DEEP to implement a uniform standard across Connecticut that allows wakesurfing to continue as an activity. One of the fastest-growing water sports in America, it is something that brings my community together.

That's why I am in support of smart statewide regulations that allow for wake surfing to continue under a uniform policy across all of Connecticut's waters.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters. I also know that this activity is safe. People of all ages participate. It brings friends, families, neighbors, and communities together. It represents meaningful recreational activity that helps people across Connecticut find a connection with nature.

I also believe it is critical that we do not have different regulations for wake surfing in different towns. Local individuals have used scare tactics and falsehoods to promote irresponsible bans. We need one statewide policy that is rooted in facts instead of distortions. This is a safe, environmentally responsible activity that delivers exercise, enjoyment, and memories.

Families like mine have made significant investments into our boats. The ability to access the water in Connecticut is why I am a resident. That's why I am urging you to step in: to prevent towns from passing misguided regulations.

I hope you will consider a smart, balanced, and fair approach to regulating wake surfing in Connecticut, so that future generations can continue to enjoy an activity that brings us all together.

Sincerely,

MK

New Preston ,CT

marykatebaldwin9@gmail.com

Mary Kate (O'Neill) Baldwin

marykatebaldwin9@gmail.com

c: 973-349-0718

From: Thomas Auth <tomauthnyc@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 2:17 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear CT DEEP Boating Division:

Attached please find a letter in connection with the DEEP's review process regarding wake surfing on CT's waterways.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Warm regards,

Thomas Auth



TA Letter to DEEP
10.2025.docx

From: Lisa Catanese <lisacata11@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 1:00 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Department of Environmental Protection,

I'm writing to express my opinion about Wake Boat usage on Coventry Lake (Lake Waramaug). My husband and I have a waterfront home on this lake, and I believe Wake Boats should be banned from our lake for several reasons:

- First and foremost, the wakes they create are a safety hazard. Many people, like us, enjoy kayaking, paddle boarding, and water skiing on the lake. Doing any of those things while Wake Boats are out is extremely difficult, if not impossible. The wakes they create are so large that they can cause a kayak or paddle board to tip over and can also knock waterskiers off balance.
- The waves these boats create cause erosion when they crash violently onto the shore.
- The wakes also cause our docked boats to be rocked strongly, causing them to hit up against the dock's bumpers and weakening the mooring ropes.
- Many people on our lake have pontoon boats and enjoy leisurely rides around the perimeter of the lake, especially around sunset. But our boats are often rocked severely by Wake Boats and this has the potential to injure passengers who may be thrown off balance.

If our lake was larger, this might not be as significant a problem. But I believe Wake Boats don't belong on a small lake like ours. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

Regards,

Lisa Catanese

250 Avery Shores, Coventry, CT

860-604-1500 (cell)

From: Cathryn Vulman <cvulman@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 12:32 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to you in support of wake surfing, and I believe it is critical that the state has a uniform policy on its waterways.

Over the last decade, wake surfing has gained immense popularity because it brings people from all walks of life together. Families create bonds, tourists create memories, and communities come together. This is an activity that almost anyone can do – teenagers as well as their grandparents – because it is done at slow speeds. It is not only safe, but also environmentally friendly.

Connecticut is a leader because we celebrate the outdoors, balancing beauty and recreation. Put simply, wake surfing helps people connect with nature.

I believe that arbitrary and overly restrictive limitations on recreational activities can be detrimental to our communities and to our state. To ensure balanced, science-based, and economically sound policies, DEEP must play a central role in establishing consistent regulations across municipalities and waterways—regulations that protect and support this important activity.

While municipalities are working to address local concerns, they may not always have access to the full range of scientific data or economic analysis necessary to guide policy decisions on this issue. A more unified, statewide approach would help ensure that regulations are informed, equitable, and effective for all.

That's why I believe it's important for the state to act by preventing municipalities from enacting individual regulations, and I am in favor of a common, statewide approach that protects this important sport.

Thank you for undertaking this study, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathryn
Southbury, CT
cvulman@gmail.com

From: Thomas Auth <tomauthnyc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 12:15 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Lake Waramaug, rowing and wake surfing

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear CT DEEP Boating Division:

Attached please find a letter in connection with the DEEP's review process regarding wake surfing on CT's waterways.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Warm regards,

Thomas Auth



TA Letter to DEEP
10.2025.docx

From: carey field <careyfield1956@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:44 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: WAKE BOAT and WAKE SURFING STUDY - Lake Lillinonah

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I live in New Milford on Lake Lillinonah.

I urge DEEP, First Light Power and the LLA to ban wake surfing, wake surf boats and any boat over 25 feet from Lake Lillinonah. In addition, I urge these organizations to institute a launch parking fee at the state launches on the lake.

Lake Lillinonah is an unusual lake in that it is so narrow in so many sections and is bordered by a number of state/local parks.

Wake boats/wake surfing are threatening to destroy the beauty and wildlife of Lake Lillinonah, and create a safety hazard for anyone else using the lake.

These boats/this activity create massive, often 4-5 foot high, waves that pummel the shore and cause erosion. There are many sections where the shore has been "dug out" creating cave-like formations. This damages the root structure of trees along the shore, which can eventually cause them to die and/or fall into the lake. The erosion also destroys the natural habitat of many animals/birds that live on the lake, including otters, ducks and geese.

In addition, the waves created by these boats/this activity damages docks, boats and other water equipment kept on the lake. I know of several lakefront homeowners who've had their docks, boats, kayaks, and other water equipment damaged, and a number have even had their boats or kayaks become untethered, by being bounced around by the huge waves.

Finally the waves created by these boats/this activity endanger those using the lake for other activities, including rowing, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming and water skiing. I personally have been knocked over by 4-5 foot high waves created by a wake surfing boat that passed us going south as I was water skiing behind our boat heading north. We have also had our boat "swamped" with up to 8" of water caused by waves created by wake surfing boats.

With regard to charging a fee for parking at the state launches on the lake, doing so would still enable people to use the lake but protect it from overuse and raise funds that could be used to continue to improve the water quality and overall environment of the lake including shoreline management. Many CT state beaches charge a parking fee. I would urge DEEP/First Light Power/LLA to institute a launch parking fee of between \$25 (weekday) to \$50 (weekends) on Lake Lillinonah. I have observed that many of the boaters/jet skiers who use the launches have little respect for the lake, do not follow safe boating rules, drive in excess of a reasonable speed and especially with the jet skiers, harass other boaters on the lake by driving in wide formations of 3-5 jet skiers which make it difficult for other boats to pass them in either direction. In addition, as other lakes such as Lake Waramaug ban wake boats/wake surfing, this will protect Lake Lillinonah by discouraging wake boat owners from coming here.

I would be happy to discuss this further with anyone at DEEP/First Light Power/LLA.

**Regards,
Carey Field
4 Tuccio Court
New Milford, CT 06776
917-363-8428**

From: jason <jasonlombardi1@aim.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:08 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: CT Wake Boat Usage - NOT IN FAVOR OF BANS

Hi,

I am a wake boat & pontoon boat owner on a lake in Connecticut. As a water sport and boating enthusiast who is familiar with this subject matter, i would like to voice a few concerns.

- A study done by a private institute in the mid-west shows wake boats stir up and ruin bottoms of lakes under +-8' of water. Wake boats need at least a minimum of 15' of water to create a wave to surf on. Anything less does not create a surfable wave.

- Jet boats, becoming more accessible in terms of cost are becoming larger than traditional wake boats. Newly designed jet boats have industry leading height for freeboard - resulting more mass and water that is being displaced, creating deeper, larger and stronger wakes. Additionally, jet boats are being designed to surf behind, offered from the factory with ballast and wake plate systems to create surfable waves. Jet boats oversaturate Connecticut lakes creating damage to personal property and shorelines.

I highly suggest CT DEEP familiarizes themselves with all styles of boats, level of boat activity PER LAKE and all factors affecting lake usage. This is opposed to targeting and focusing on one aspect of boating based on an emotional reaction to an activity.

Regards,
Jason

From: Danielle Petriccione <dlpetri12@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 7:20 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day, I am writing in regards to the upcoming study on wakesurf boats.

Please consider sending a notice to all homeowners about the study- via mail box or posted to docks.

Here are some points I would like submitted to the record regarding the study, specifically Lake Lillinonah:

This is an important study, but that's all it should be at this time- a study. There needs to be time to gather the necessary data and there are countless factors at play before making a hasty determination of this magnitude.

I grew up on this lake beginning in the late 1970's and feel lucky to call it home.

I have had a CT boating license since I was very young and have achieved a USCG 50-ton captain's license. I have spent many hours on the water and can operate boats of all kinds extremely well, and there is not one instance I can remember of an out of control or dangerous wake surf boat operator. NOT ONE! But let me tell you that I've encountered countless horrendous operators of jet skis, fishing, and other boats.

I have noticed the police/LLA presence has increased, which has been well-needed, but not one time this summer did I see them pulling over a vessel other than a kayak, or generously towing a boat. Do they not engage anymore? When I was younger people would be pulled over all the time! And don't you know it, terrible operators were few and far between back then. It's important especially now that CT boating laws have fizzled into nearly nothing. This should be studied!! (and immediately addressed!)

Being on a surf boat is a thrill, the camaraderie of going slow enough to engage with the person surfing is unlike any other sport behind a boat! If the surf boat driver is considerate the best thing they can do is use the opposite side or middle of the lake, or use an unpopulated area. This all comes down to the operator. Which goes back to my above point of licensing and enforcement. Instead of being the fun police, it's time to focus more on actual boating law enforcement. Basic "rules of the road" are so often ignored and it's a disgrace.

I can't speak to environmental factors, as I have not been studying this. I can say that our shoreline doesn't seem to be affected. Sure, it's obnoxious when boats go by & wake you but nearly ALL boats these days put out a significant wake, including pontoons. I am very interested in hearing more about the impacts of boats on the lake, I will not add judgement to where I am not qualified, this is up to you to inform us. I participate in the lake cleanups every year as well as have volunteered for the debris count. Every year, without fail, the most debris is from fishing folks- lures, hooks, miles of fishing lines, discarded trash, etc. It's an absolute shame. We never see the fishing boats

participating in the cleanups, yet they seem to produce the most waste and are the most inconsiderate drivers at 5:30am ripping up & down the lake, well exceeding the speed limit.

I am a windsurfer and stand up paddle boarder and greatly enjoy when I get to hit some waves! I do NOT enjoy when operators drive straight for me and then swerve to avoid me. It's terrifying and that makes me scared to recreate on a board like that- I choose slower hours of the day which I should not have to do. Again, never have I had a problem with surf boats while on a board.

Boats are expensive and a huge commitment for the owner, especially these outrageously-expensive surf boats. This factor should absolutely be considered when making a decision as it could have financial consequences.

Please consider studying how many homeowners on the lake have a surf boat vs how many trailer them. Please also consider adding a fee to out of state plates at the launches.

This is an incredibly huge, difficult, and important decision that should be considered very carefully. I would be happy to contribute my time if that is helpful to your department to encourage a valuable and honest study. I am very eager to review your findings, whenever that is!

Thank you for your time to consider my long-winded email!

Danielle Petriccione

From: Schirduan, Mary <Mary.Schirduan@sbdinc.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 12:10 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: mesineh@cs.com; 'mspeek43@gmail.com' <mspeek43@gmail.com>; wdenya@att.net

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello DEEP: I submit the attached in support of the adoption of the Ordinance against wake surfing activity requested by East Haddam voters relevant to Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for further discussion.

Mary Schirduan

774-364-3171



Save CT Freshwater
Lakes.docx

From: Chris Dahm <chris.dahm@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 8:53 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to strongly oppose any proposed ban or excessive restriction on wake boats and wakesurfing on Lake Waramaug. This conversation has become increasingly influenced by emotion and misinformation rather than by data, lived experience, or common sense. I urge DEEP to ensure that this study reflects facts, balance, and fairness — not fear or selective narratives from those who do not actually use the lake.

I strongly believe in maintaining balanced, shared use of this beautiful natural resource. The lake has long been enjoyed by a wide variety of people — from kayakers and rowers to anglers, sailors, swimmers, and wakeboarders. It is entirely possible for all groups to coexist safely and respectfully when reasonable guidelines and existing boating laws are followed.

Much of the push for a ban appears to be coming from individuals or organizations that do not actively use the lake, yet wish to dictate how others enjoy it. The voices of actual lake users — families, boaters, and local residents who spend time on the water — must carry meaningful weight in this discussion. Those who know the lake firsthand understand that with proper operation, wakesurfing and wakeboarding can be done responsibly and without significant environmental or safety impact.

It's also important to recognize that a majority of lakefront homeowners on Lake Waramaug own and operate wake boats themselves. These are responsible, long-term stewards of the lake who have a direct interest in preserving its health and beauty. The people most familiar with this water and who spend the most time on it overwhelmingly use and support wake boats. Their experience should carry more weight than opinions from those who do not actively use or understand the lake.

Lake Waramaug has a long history of balanced recreation, and that balance is part of what makes it so special. Completely eliminating one type of activity would unfairly favor one group of users over another and undermine the inclusive spirit that defines public access and outdoor recreation in Connecticut. Rather than imposing blanket bans, DEEP and local officials should focus on education, existing regulation enforcement, and reasonable distance guidelines that encourage mutual respect among all users.

There is no credible, science-based evidence showing that wake boats cause measurable environmental harm to Lake Waramaug. Claims about shoreline erosion, sediment disruption, or habitat impact are largely speculative and not supported by peer-reviewed studies specific to this lake. Connecticut should rely on facts and data, not fear or assumptions, when making decisions that affect how residents and visitors can enjoy our waterways.

Wakeboarding and wakesurfing are not only safe and environmentally responsible when practiced correctly, but they also support local tourism, marinas, and small businesses that depend on lake activity throughout the summer season. Eliminating these activities would cause unnecessary economic harm and diminish the vibrant recreation culture that defines Lake Waramaug.

Chris Dahm

Warren Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: vlcollectibles170@netzero.net <vlcollectibles170@netzero.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 2:32 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: wakeboat andwakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As a fisherman on Bashan Lake who fishes in a small (14ft) boat I have experienced quite a surprise when I was knocked around by the wake of a wakeboat that was a considerable distance from my location. I didnt really notice the boat until after the wave had hit my boat and I quickly grabbed a seat. I personally believe that Bashan Lake (273 acres) is much too small for these type of boats as I see how the waves from them hit docks, rafts, other boats and the shoreline. Bashan Lake already has approximately 150 motorized boats on it now. Maybe the ocean is the best place for wakeboats. I cant think of any lake in Ct.that would be better off with the use of Wakeboats. How do these boats get around the weight restrictions that apply to all motorized boats?

From: Karen Reddington-Hughes <abrash.galleries@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:41 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat comments

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

If the goal of this study is to create standards, why is it that there are no uniform standards for the states that allow for these boats in their lakes?

There are some that require 200 feet from the shoreline, others 300 feet and then still others that require 200 feet on both sides of the boat.

The depth of the water is another issue and the effect that churning up the bottom of the lake has on algae bloom and fish populations. Are there any studies that show that having wake boats - in wake mode do not negatively impact the ecosystem of the lake?

When wake boats are used there is water that is stored in the ballast tank. If this boat is then taken to another lake there is no way to clean what is left in that tank and prevent the spread of invasives from one lake to another. What kind of preventative measures would prevent that? Hydrilla is and continues to be a danger - why would we want to expose perfectly clean small lakes to this?

Clearly wake boats do pose a danger to fishing boats, kayaks, paddlers and canoes. On lakes that allow this activity what are the incidents of accidents that involve these crafts?

Shoreline erosion is another question that seems to be unanswered. For lakes that have wakeboats, what has the impact been in erosion if any?

The towns of Washington, Warren and Kent have proactively placed an ordinance in effect through vote and DEEP's approval that the majority of people in all three towns supported banning the use of wake boats used in wake mode on Lake Warramaug. Would this be the first time that the state overturned an ordinance effectively negating a small towns autonomy?

State Representative
Karen Reddington-Hughes
66th House District

Sent from my iPhone

From: Chris Chinnock <chris@insightmedia.info>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:28 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Cc: Chris Chinnock <chris@insightmedia.info>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am a lakefront owner on Highland Lake in Winsted, CT. There is wakesurfing activity on the lake and I have several concerns about this. For example, the large wakes created by these boats does not have time to dissipate before reaching the shoreline. These large waves overrun my wall potentially impacting erosion. They are also dangerous for my young grandchildren when in the water as the waves go over their heads. And they are dangerous for others near the sea wall or steps as they can be hurled against them. As a water skier, I dislike the large wakes as they are very difficult to navigate without falling, which can hurt at 30 mph.

I have read studies of wake surfing impacts on the lake bottom as it stirs up sediments and can enhance unwelcome plant growth.

I realize that a ban on wakeboats may create a hardship for those who have purchased these expensive boats, but their use is creating a lot of negative feelings.

Thanks for your consideration.

Chris Chinnock

From: Connecticut Boating Certificates <glenn.dean@connecticutboatingcertificates.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 7:53 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Cc: Dupuis, Mia <Mia.Dupuis@ct.gov>; Flynn, Gwendolynn <Gwendolynn.Flynn@ct.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Connecticut Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study - Opportunity to Comment

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Thank you for sharing the Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment regarding Wake Boats and Wake Surfing—there's quite a bit to digest.

For what it's worth, if the state is going to allow wake surfing for a number of valid reasons, implementing a spacing requirement could go a long way. A simple rule such as maintaining a specific distance from shorelines, docks, swim floats, piers, and anchored or moored vessels seems logical and easy to enforce. It is a relatively straightforward implementation and would demonstrate the state's proactive effort in addressing many of the issues swirling around this topic. Wake surfing is done at an average speed of 10-15 mph so a larger spacing from shore may be a great starting point.

Of course to me, being a safety guy, my concern is those trying to wake surf behind a boat not designed for wake surfing. IE everyone gets to the stern and to one side so the boat throws a larger wake. That is dangerous. Also with no tow line, propeller strikes become a growing concern.

In any case, thanks for listening and I hope you're having a great day! Below are some Copilot search results from this morning I did after writing this email....

Vermont

Wake Sport Zones: Wake surfing is restricted to designated zones that are:

At least 500 feet from shore
At least 200 feet wide
At least 20 feet deep
50 contiguous acres minimum

Home Lake Rule: Wake boats must remain on a designated lake during the boating season unless decontaminated by a certified provider.

Environmental Focus: Aims to reduce shoreline erosion and aquatic habitat disruption. [mncola.org]

Maine

Distance & Depth Requirements:

Wake surfing must occur at least 300 feet from shore
Minimum water depth of 15 feet

Education & Enforcement:

Boat dealers must inform buyers about safety and education requirements.

Repeat violations (3 in 5 years) can be elevated to a Class E crime.

A state report on enforcement and impact is due by 2027. [mncola.org]

Michigan

Proposed Legislation (HB 5532):

Restricts wake boats to 500 feet from shore and 20 feet minimum depth

Based on a DNR study showing wake boats generate up to 17x more wave energy than similar boats

Concerns include sediment resuspension, algae blooms, and shoreline erosion

[michiganwakeboating.com]

Wisconsin

Local Ordinances:

Many towns have enacted their own rules due to lack of statewide regulation.

Common Restrictions:

No wake surfing within 200 feet of shore, docks, or moored vessels

Prohibition on wake sports in water bodies less than 400 feet wide

Controversy: Ongoing legal battles over local bans and environmental concerns [wpr.org]

New Hampshire

Legislation (HB 229 & HB 115):

Defines “wake boats” and requires them to be designed for wake surfing

Bans nighttime wake surfing

Requires life jackets for all wake surfers [nmma.org]

Oregon

Legislation (HB 2555, HB 2725, HB 2734):

Limits motorboat weight to under 4,000 lbs for wake sports certification

Proposes excise tax on wake boat sales

Calls for further study on environmental impacts [nmma.org]

Virginia

Smith Mountain Lake Rule:

Prohibits wake surfing within 200 feet of docks, piers, shorelines, or people in the water

Applies to lakes over 20,000 acres and 500 feet above sea level [nmma.org]



Captain Glenn Dean CRBP
State Certified Instructor
Connecticut Boating Certificates LLC
Cell 203-788-3438 Office 800-832-7191
www.connecticutboatingcertificates.com

From: Dylan Gagne <dylangagne@att.net>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:28 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat usage

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

They should be slowed because it is one of the safest ways to get young and old riders behind the boat Dylan Gagne dylangagne@att.net
(860)978-9005

From: L B <lburokas22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 12:25 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat and Wake Surf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.
My comments reflect my experiences with wake boats and their wakes on Coventry Lake (Lake Wangumbaug) in Coventry, CT.

Having lived on Coventry Lake for 24 years, I've seen the sizes and types of boats change significantly. It used to be common to see 16' to 20' cruising/fishing/water sport boats, which generate modest wakes. With the increasing use of wake boats on Coventry Lake, which generate "ocean-like" wakes designed to surf on, I have become very concerned about the changes to my property and the health of the lake.

We have lost 18" of shoreline vegetation due to erosion over the past several years. I believe that there are two factors contributing to this. Coventry Lake had a dam which was leaking, which made it difficult to regulate the level of the lake. The dam has been repaired, but the present summer level of the lake is higher than before the repairs, and more water is pushed onto shorelines by wind and waves, resulting in damage to docks, retaining walls, and loss of shoreline property. The second issue is the large waves produced by wake boats. Some operators are respectful of shoreline properties and use the center of the lake for wake surfing. Although the waves do not totally flatten out by the time they reach the shorelines, their height and destructive power is greatly reduced. Many operators of wake boats cruise along the shorelines, causing waves to hit property owners' docks, retaining walls, and beaches with enough force to disrupt the sand and shoreline plantings causing significant loss of shoreline property.

Lake Waramaug has banned the use of wake boats, effective in February 2026--pending approval by DEEP. The voters in the three towns surrounding Lake Waramaug are concerned about large wakes created by wake boats and the safety risk for swimmers, kayaks, and other boaters, as well as damage shorelines and disruption of aquatic life.

One remedy to help shoreline homeowners on Coventry Lake might be to restrict the use of wake boats to the middle area of the lake parallel to the south shore so that wakes are somewhat minimized.

The health and safety of water bodies in CT, as well as the protection of private property, must be carefully considered in all decisions regarding the proper use of these natural resources.

Michael and Lorraine Burokas
27 Shore Drive
Coventry, CT 06238
burokasmike@gmail.com
LBurokas22@gmail.com
860 207-1022 Mike
860 305-1741 Lorraine

From: carrie britton <littlecarrie@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 12:56 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boats

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a lakefront property owner, and I couldn't agree more. I feel like wake boats should be banned because of the destruction they cause to property as well as safety concerns to kayakers and paddle boarders up upon the lake... the large weight that they make is definitely a hazard. I am in support of banning them from our lake Carrie Sent from my iPhone

From: Laura Heemskerk <lauraheemskerk@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 3:05 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and wake surf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, as a waterfront home owner on Coventry Lake, and a member of Coventry's Inland Wetland Agency, I would like to express concern over allowing these damaging wake surfing watercraft on this lake. Our natural resources are at stake, as well as our property. I would like the state to disallow these watercraft on inland watercourses, please.

Sincerely,

Laura Heemskerk

From: Bill B <banholzer.bill@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 4:09 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioner Katherine S. Dykes
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Subject: Response to Request for Input on DEEP's Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

I am writing in response to Connecticut DEEP's request for input on its forthcoming Wake Boat and Wakesurfing Study. I am a Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a National Academy of Engineering member with expertise in fluid mechanics and statistical analysis.

My expertise in fluid mechanics, a fundamental competency in chemical engineering, is grounded in the same Navier-Stokes equations used by marine engineers. I have conducted fluid flow analysis, computational modeling, and an innovative study using CT scanning to investigate flow dynamics in fluidized beds. These studies involve principles analogous to the physics of sediment and sand movement in aquatic environments.

I am unaffiliated with any boat manufacturers or industry groups and take an entirely objective approach to understanding and addressing environmental concerns related to boating activities. I have conducted an extensive review of the scientific literature on boat wakes and wave motion and have engaged in dialogues with leading global experts on these topics. Restrictions on wake-enhancing devices enacted on lakes in Connecticut and elsewhere overlook the most current and credible scientific evidence on the environmental effects of wake boats. These bans rest on perception rather than demonstrable impact and therefore fail to meet the evidentiary standards expected for environmental regulation.

1. The Scientific Record Does Not Support Claims of Environmental Harm

An independent peer-reviewed study by the Australian Maritime College (MacFarlane 2018, 2025) demonstrates that wakes from surf-mode boats operated more than 200 feet from shore are indistinguishable in height, energy, and duration from wakes produced by fishing or ski boats at 100 feet operated at 10-12 mph, which would be allowed in the ordinance.

At 200 feet, wake-boat waves average roughly 11 inches with a ~2-second period—the same as waves from a 25 mph wind over a mile of fetch and well below the 9.8-inch / 2.7-second erosion threshold found by Nanson et al. (1994). More than 70 percent of wave energy dissipates within 200 feet (Goudey & Girod 2015). No credible empirical work has shown shoreline instability when this 200-foot standard is observed.

Sediment studies further confirm that no resuspension occurs below 10 feet of depth, even directly under wake boats. Measured subsurface velocities (10–16 cm/s) remain below the 12 cm/s

threshold required to mobilize silt (Beachler & Hill 2003; Daeger 2022). Wind, not boat traffic, dominates sediment disturbance (Anthony & Downing 2003).

2. Flawed and Non-Peer-Reviewed Reports Were Given Undue Weight

Much of the alarm about wake-boat impacts derives from self-published Terra Vigilis reports, including one on Lake Waramaug in Connecticut. These documents rely on uncalibrated drone imagery, omit error analysis, and use high-speed ski-boat data as baselines—methodological flaws that invalidate their conclusions. Using unverified reports as a regulatory foundation conflicts with DEEP’s statutory obligation to avoid “arbitrary or unreasonable” rules. How can you allow the prohibition of wake boats yet allow a ski boat operated at 10-12 mph, which has been shown to produce just as large a wave?

3. Selective Regulation Creates Inconsistency and Liability

Connecticut’s existing 100-foot setback already ensures safety and is consistent with other states. Extending restrictions solely to wake-enhancing devices while permitting other large boats to operate in the same semi-displacement regime is scientifically unjustified and legally arbitrary. Nationwide, 46 states maintain the 200-foot or less standard; none impose a 700-foot limit or allow bans. Allowing such uneven local rules creates confusion and invites selective enforcement — an issue DEEP itself noted when stating that its Conservation Police cannot enforce municipal ordinances.

4. Wake Boating’s Actual Risk Profile

Wake boats operate at roughly 11 mph—slower than typical ski boats that exceed 30 mph —and thus cover less area and produce fewer shoreline passes. They are certified safe by the U.S. Coast Guard, and there is no record of accidents unique to wake boats. Nor do they pose a distinct risk for invasive species; modern ballast systems expel >99.9 percent of water, while mobile fishing boats contribute far greater cross-lake transfer risk (Doll 2018).

5. An Arbitrary and Unjustified Decision

Allowing Connecticut lakes to ban wake boats while ignoring other slow-speed recreational activities that produce equivalent or greater wakes violates DEEP’s mandate to disallow wholly arbitrary limits to recreational use of state resources. Such selective treatment cannot be reconciled with scientific evidence or with the agency’s responsibility to ensure fair, uniform, and rational environmental policy. Environmental stewardship requires decisions anchored in quantifiable data, not public pressure or misinformation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to science-based management of Connecticut’s public waters. Attached is a white paper I composed to summarize the current scientific understanding.

Sincerely,

William Banholzer
Professor of Practice, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Member, National Academy of Engineering



White_Paper- Rigor
t-test.docx



DEEP Letter .pdf

From: Adrian Schultes <adrianschultes@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 2:15 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboard boats

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Boating Division,

As a homeowner and boat owner on Candlewood Lake, I respectfully urge the Department to ensure that wakeboats and wakesurfing continue to be allowed in Connecticut with reasonable, evidence-based guidelines rather than restrictive bans.

Wake sports are an important part of our lake community—bringing families together, promoting healthy outdoor activity, and supporting local businesses, including marinas, marine service providers, and hospitality operations that depend on boating tourism. These economic and social benefits are significant for the region and should be weighed alongside environmental and safety considerations.

Like all water activities, responsible operation is key. Education and enforcement—not prohibition—are the most effective tools to address concerns about shoreline erosion or safety. Many states have successfully implemented common-sense distance and speed regulations that balance recreation with environmental stewardship. Connecticut can adopt a similar approach, using data and local input to guide decisions tailored to each waterbody rather than one-size-fits-all restrictions.

Candlewood Lake has long demonstrated that multiple forms of recreation can coexist when users act responsibly and respect established guidelines. With continued cooperation, thoughtful education, and modern boating technologies designed to reduce impact, wake sports can remain a safe, sustainable, and valued part of our state's outdoor recreation economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your commitment to a balanced, fact-based study.

Sincerely,

Adrian Schultes

35 Lake Drive North

Homeowner and Boat Owner, Candlewood Lake, CT

Cell: (917) 204-7952

From: Sue Tomasini <sue1rich1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:29 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boats

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm a fisherman and have fished Lake Candlewood since I was 5 years old, first with my Dad and then with my sons so I know a lot about the Lake. I've lived in Danbury for all but 3 years of my life.

First safety.

When my sons were young I would take them water skiing and tubing with my wife, this was a long time ago as my sons are now 57 & 55.

I would NEVER do that today with those wake boats putting up huge wakes that go all across the lake. I can't understand how any parent takes their kids out to do that as when they fall you can't see them in the water with those waves, all it takes is one boat driver not paying attention and the unthinkable could happen. I know a lot of boats put out big waves but not like the wake boats.

2nd. damage and erosion.

You must get multiple complaints from home owners about damage to their docks and the bottom erosion may be part of the problem with the weed kill, I don't know, I not a Scientist..

As my son and I Bass fish he says they are just having fun like we are but we are NOT putting anyone in danger.

Being 77 I always sit when fishing but still I have to hold onto my seat when those big waves go by so imagine standing up front.

There were only a few wake boats a couple of years ago but now there are 2 or 3 on every part of the Lake.

I don't think it would be fair to totally ban them but that isn't my choice to make.

This is just my opinion.

As long as I writing to you what is going to be done about the weed kill. You know it will have terrible results with fish spawning and oxygen levels in the Lake.

Do you have any idea what killed the weeds, it has to have something with way too many Grass Carp were introduced and I believe a Scientist should be hired to figure it all out. Maybe pay for it with the fishing license fees instead of putting them in the General Fund.

Thanks,

Rich Tomasini Sr.

From: Mary Y <gardengrow321@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 9:21 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboat/surf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I spend about 5 months out of the year on Candlewood Lake in Sherman. I am on the shoreline and have seen firsthand the damage that the wakeboats and wake surfing do to the shoreline. I am all for recreating and enjoying the lake. What the wake boating enthusiasts do not understand, is that the enormous size of the wake crashing against the shore causes huge erosion issues. The dirt and soil is literally being washed away, leaving behind bushes and trees with not enough footing to hold them in and keep them healthy. When a mature tree falls in the water, it causes great difficulty and limits use of the water in the area. for recreating purposes. It also becomes unsightly. We live on a Rocky Hill and to remove a tree, alive or down, close. close to \$5,000 a piece, that is if you can get First Light to approve cleanup.

Perhaps there are areas on the lake that do not have as much erosion issues due to different terrain. Or perhaps using the wakeboats in larger open water will cause less environmental concerns.

Thank you,
Mary Yankajtis

From: Matthew <matsocks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 10:24 AM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wakeboat study.

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I have lived on Candlewood Lake in Sherman for 23 years. For those of us living on this beautiful lake, the Wake boats are more than just an annoyance; they are an actual threat to our safety when we are in the water whether it's paddling or simply trying to enjoy the lake on a hot day. My boat gets tossed 5 to 10 ft into the air, straining the ropes and whips used to keep it in place.

Our stone retaining walls and docks, get pounded with near ocean-sized waves and the water floods the stone patio which is, otherwise above the water's height. Safety aside, costs of repairs on docks and retaining walls can easily add up into the many thousands of dollars. Also, it seems to me that there are more fallen trees in the last number of years than ever before.

The scourge of the wakeboats has a dimmed the safety and enjoyment of Candlewood lake for many who live here.

Sincerely,
Matthew Gelfer
Sherman, CT

From: LOF Adaptive Skiers <lofskiers@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 9:45 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Peter/Boating Division, 10/10/2025

Hope you've had a good summer! My feelings toward wake surfing and wake surfing boats are actually quite simple. Everybody deserves to take part in the recreation that they enjoy and that is beneficial to their health. It appears that wake surfing became negative due to some residents on Lake Waramaug. I am not sure why, we all know that certain boats make bigger waves than others. Not only wakeboarding and wake surfing boats, but also boats over 26 feet here on Lake Zoar. It's just a part of the boating community. I've personally observed all of this for over 60 years. LOF, with our events, has never had a problem with people going by on wake surfing boats, or any other large boats making large waves. Again, my thoughts are that we should let responsible people take part in their sports with the boats they own. I firmly believe that any new regulations or laws restricting wake surfing would definitely not be enforceable. The state of CT and the DEEP Boating Division has much more to be concerned about at this time. This is not just my input, but also the input of our large non-profit organization.

Thanks,
Joel Z

--

LOF Adaptive Skiers

"Soaring Beyond Boundaries"

Phone: 203.426.0666

Email: LOFskiers@gmail.com

www.LOFadaptiveskiers.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LOFAdaptiveSkiers>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lofadaptiveskiers/>

From: James Cornwell <jcjames.cornwell@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 8:34 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Boating Division,

As a homeowner and boat owner on Candlewood Lake, I respectfully urge the Department to ensure that wakeboats and wakesurfing continue to be allowed in the state of Connecticut with reasonable, evidence-based guidelines rather than restrictive bans.

Wake sports are an important part of our lake community—bringing families together, promoting healthy outdoor activity, and supporting local businesses, including marinas, marine service providers, and hospitality operations that depend on boating tourism. These economic and social benefits are significant for the region and should be weighed alongside environmental and safety considerations.

Like all water activities, responsible operation is key and the vast majority of wakeboats on Candlewood Lake are operated with care and attention to the environment and other boaters. Education and enforcement—not prohibition—are effective tools to address concerns about shoreline erosion or safety. Many states have successfully implemented common-sense distance and speed regulations that balance recreation with environmental stewardship. Connecticut can adopt a similar approach, using data and local input to guide decisions tailored to each waterbody rather than one-size-fits-all restrictions.

Candlewood Lake has long demonstrated that multiple forms of recreation can coexist when users act responsibly and respect established guidelines. With continued cooperation, thoughtful education, and modern boating technologies designed to reduce impact, wake sports can remain a safe, sustainable, and valued part of our state's outdoor recreation economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your commitment to a balanced, fact-based study.

Sincerely,

James C

Homeowner and Boat Owner, Candlewood Lake, CT

From: nicolehebertot@gmail.com <nicolehebertot@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 8:52 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

We are homeowners and boat owners on Candlewood lake CT and remain in support of wake boats and related sports.

The lake has shown over many years that it can cater to all water sports and with some thoughtful guidelines this can continue for years to come.

Watersports is an important past time for families and friends as well as a critical social and well being outlet - at a time when it is needed more than ever.

We are grateful that DEEP is undertaking a fact based study and for the opportunity to provide our input.

Best,
Nicole

From: John Nixon <jtnixon33@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 9:31 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

The use of ballasted Wake Boats has increased dramatically in the past 15 years that I have been actively boating on Connecticut waters. While I do not have direct knowledge of underwater affects of their use, including disruption of lakebeds/seabeds and marine life, their impact on surface level operations is apparent. The disproportional wakes they throw increase risk of injury to boaters and kayakers that are using the same resource, and even the decreased sightlines they create pose a danger to swimmers from other watercraft. The shoreline erosion problem is clear around Candlewood Lake and Lake Waramaug. They also pose an increased risk of property damage to both fixed docks and moored boats. The large wakes travel farther, and sometimes interact with each other to magnify their size and can cause damage or disruption far beyond the operating area of the wakeboats. This poses Wake Zone issues even when the boats are being operated in areas without wake restrictions. Local or state control of the use of the ballast systems (Similar to the controls for overboard discharge of waste) could help ease these issues.

Thank you for your time

John N

Norwalk CT

From: James Cornwell <jcjames.cornwell@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 9:31 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Re: Wake boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP Boating Division,

As a homeowner and boat owner on Candlewood Lake, I respectfully urge the Department to ensure that wakeboats and wakesurfing continue to be allowed in the state of Connecticut with reasonable, evidence-based guidelines rather than restrictive bans.

Wake sports are an important part of our lake community—bringing families together, promoting healthy outdoor activity, and supporting local businesses, including marinas, marine service providers, and hospitality operations that depend on boating tourism. These economic and social benefits are significant for the region and should be weighed alongside environmental and safety considerations.

Like all water activities, responsible operation is key and the vast majority of wakeboats on Candlewood Lake are operated with care and attention to the environment and other boaters. Education and enforcement—not prohibition—are effective tools to address concerns about shoreline erosion or safety. Many states have successfully implemented common-sense distance and speed regulations that balance recreation with environmental stewardship. Connecticut can adopt a similar approach, using data and local input to guide decisions tailored to each waterbody rather than one-size-fits-all restrictions.

Candlewood Lake has long demonstrated that multiple forms of recreation can coexist when users act responsibly and respect established guidelines. With continued cooperation, thoughtful education, and modern boating technologies designed to reduce impact, wake sports can remain a safe, sustainable, and valued part of our state's outdoor recreation economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your commitment to a balanced, fact-based study.

Sincerely,

James C

Homeowner and Boat Owner, Candlewood Lake, CT

From: abcfish@atlanticbb.net <abcfish@atlanticbb.net>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 10:02 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached please find comments from the Pattagansett Lake Association requested by the Department regarding wake boats and wakesurfing in Connecticut. Please get back to me if you have any questions or comments on our submission. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this issue.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Danila
Secretary, Board of Directors, Pattagansett Lake Association

24 Pattagansett Drive
East Lyme, CT 06333

Home Phone: (860) 739-4196

Cell Phone: (860) 514-3601



Comments from PLA
on Wake Boats.docx

From: JAMES CORNWELL <goldfishjim2001@yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 9:41 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

FTAO DEEP Boating Division -

We are homeowners on Candlewood Lake and boat regularly from April through October every season.

We would like to see wakeboats and wakesurfing continue to be allowed in CT.

Wake sports are a long established and extremely popular part of our lake community. It brings families, friends, colleagues and even neighbors together, promoting socialization, healthy activity, supporting for businesses with emphasis on marinas marine and other services that depend heavily on boating and watersports.

The economic and social benefits are significant for the region and need to be considered in a balanced and fair manner - alongside any environmental and/or safety aspects.

Education and guidelines are effective tools to address concerns and offer peace of mind to those who are not in favour of supporting watersports.

Other states have successfully implemented distance and speed regulations that serve to address concerns and enable boating to continue in a responsible and respectful manner.

Connecticut can adopt a similar approach, using evidence based data specific to each lake where watersports is permitted (today).

Candlewood Lake has supported multiple forms of recreation showing they can coexist when users are made aware of guidelines to follow.

We appreciate your efforts in this study and the opportunity to comment.

Kind regards.

Jim

From: John Palmieri <jjpalmieri@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 10:15 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Wake boats are very dangerous for the rest of folks on the lake. Also caused damage to my deck due to wave pushing dock tied to it. They should not be allowed.

From: dshelberg@jpnconstructionllc.com <dshelberg@jpnconstructionllc.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 7:34 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: wake boat and wakesurf study

A town wide vote was held where wake boats were banned from Moodus Reservoir and Bashan Lake.



Scan2025-10-09_19
1953 wake boat.pdf

From: CORNWELL James <james.cornwell@sgcib.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 12:18 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat & Wakesurf Study [SECURE]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi -

My family and I are homeowners in CT and boat every season on Candlewood Lake. We also swim, paddleboard, and hangout in or on the lake with our children.

Over the many years on the lake, we have always been able to find calm or quiet water for relaxing, as well as parts of the lake where it is appropriate to do watersports.

We are sharing these comments in support of keeping wake boats and related water sports on Candlewood Lake.

For many years friends and family have enjoyed all types of watersports on the lake, providing a quality-of-life outdoor activity that is as much part of the Candlewood Lake community culture as any other aspect of lakefront life/living.

Our community has deep ties with the Echo Bay and Candlewood East Marinas, who are excellently run local business that receive much income and support from the Wake boat community.

We feel strongly that Candlewood Lake can continue to cater to all water sports, including wake related, understanding there are calls for regulation or guidelines which we are not opposed to, so long as they are based on evidence specific to Candlewood Lake vs public opinion which will always be divided on this topic - across the country not just the state of CT.

Please aim for a data driven study that considers each body of water individually vs looking at this as a one size fits all approach.

Candlewood lake is deep and large enough to readily support all watersports including wake related watersports and non-motorized watersports.

Motorized Watersports have been an important past time for families and friends since the 1920's, and while we recognize the nature of those watersports has evolved significantly overtime, we should not lose sight of the history.

Within our community we have seen and heard concerned voices, some of which have merit i.e., a few (very small minority) of Wake boat operators that do not follow rules, but also some that do not i.e., waterfront homeowners that do not wish to see or hear boats on the lake... surely it is an option NOT to live waterfront vs asking watersport enthusiasts to pack-up and go home, especially for homes purchased in the last 15 or so years i.e., when watersports was already mainstream on Candlewood Lake. Why buy a waterfront home knowing this, only to raise concerns that a homeowner does not wish to be disturbed by boaters and watersport enthusiasts.

Please also consider out of state users of the lake, as well as those travelling long distances within the state, as they may not have the same investment in the Candlewood Lake community as local users.

Being fair, respectful, and neighborly is all that is needed in our opinion - a standard we have always held to. There are many ways to achieve these things that do not require drastic measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the study,

**Best,
JC**

From: K. Michael Lathroum <kennethm.lathroum@maryland.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 11:26 AM

To: Francis, Peter <Peter.Francis@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boats

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Peter,

Marland's BLA forwarded your email to me regarding wake boats and the study Connecticut is undertaking. I am currently the Maryland DNR Boating Stakeholder Coordinator and I work with our Boat Act Advisory Committee, which per State law they are required to review any proposed changes to boating regulations.

Earlier this year at my request the BAAC formed a sub-committee to look at the wake boat issue here in Maryland. Our only real regulation about these boats is a 200 ft standoff distance which is about 14 years old now. We have been seeing an uptick in complaints about these boats.

<https://dsd.maryland.gov/regulations/Pages/08.18.01.09.aspx>

We have gathered a fair bit of information and recent research about these boats which I have placed in a google drive folder. I am sharing the link to the google drive with you so that you can take a look at what we have gathered.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Txui4UiYN4XHYtS26kOWsc9rmpyb9oO?usp=drive_link

If you have any questions please let me know.

Mike Lathroum

Boating Stakeholder Coordinator

--



K. Michael Lathroum
Boating Stakeholder Coordinator
Fishing and Boating Services
Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Ave E-4
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 260-8272 (office)
(410) 260-8453 (fax)
(410) 279-9054 (cell)
kennethm.lathroum@maryland.gov



From: Robert Serer <rps6785@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 4:22 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboarding

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As someone who has fished and enjoyed Connecticut's freshwater lakes for over 25 years, I've witnessed firsthand the increasing popularity of water recreation—something that should be a cause for celebration. Unfortunately, it has come at a cost that's becoming harder to ignore. Our lakes are beautiful, but they are relatively small and fragile compared to those in larger states. The recent surge in use of wake boats—specifically designed to create large wakes for wakeboarding and surfing—has raised serious concerns about their suitability on Connecticut's waters.

These boats are not merely larger or faster—they are engineered to produce disruptive wakes, often through added ballast systems. Studies from other states have shown that the wakes they generate don't just affect the surface, but disturb water as deep as 15 feet, dislodging sediment and harming aquatic vegetation. The environmental toll is evident: murkier waters, stressed ecosystems, and erosion along lake banks.

Take Candlewood Lake, for example. It's one of the most beautiful and popular lakes in Connecticut, but during the summer, the constant churn of wake boats makes it almost unbearable for traditional boating. I own a 21-foot boat designed for freshwater use—and yet, even on calm days, I find myself unable to stay out safely due to the relentless, rolling wakes. It's no longer an enjoyable experience. Frankly, it forces responsible boaters off the water.

There's also the damage to docks, moored boats, and shoreline property. Many waterfront homeowners now spend thousands on repairs or reinforcements. These boats can cause sudden, jarring wakes that endanger swimmers and paddlers, and put kayakers and fishermen—like myself—at constant risk.

The sad truth is that our lakes simply cannot accommodate this kind of traffic. And while everyone has the right to enjoy the water, wake boating on these small, shared lakes often feels like a selfish act—akin to the loudest guest at a party who drowns out everyone else, unconcerned with how they're affecting the experience of others

From: James Ventres <james.ventres@easthaddam.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 11:08 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Question on notification

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mt question of the day. Is this notice beginning sent to the municipalities and lake associations? I also couldn't find it posted on the CT DEEP Boating Division web page.

Thank you – Jim Ventres – East Haddam

From: molly boehner <mboehner@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 1:03 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake surfing Candlewood Lake

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

The cove in New Milford is much too narrow to allow wake surfing. The beaches in this cove and at Len Deming Park are like swimming in the ocean. It is unsafe in this cove to be out on paddle boards or fishing during the day on any summer weekend. I believe that all covers on the lake should be limited wake zones.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Peter Longo <pflcjl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 1:04 PM
To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>
Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am pleased to submit the following input for your proposed study. My perspective is informed by my extensive experience on Bantam Lake, including:

- Board Member and Treasurer of the Bantam Lake Authority (4 years), Bantam Lake Protective Association (25+ years), and Bantam Lake Ski Club (40+ years).
- Senior Boat Driver for the Bantam Lake Ski Club and a Certified Boat Driver with the National Ski Show Association (USA Water Ski and Wake Sports Association).

For your information, these organizations have supplied key input to a proposed ordinance for Bantam Lake. Our proposal does not advocate an outright ban on Wake Surfing but rather establishes a 500-foot buffer from shore where it can occur.

I urge you to consider the following three critical points and associated definitions in your study, as they are essential for creating effective and environmentally sound regulations.

1. Differentiating Between Directly and Indirectly Towed Water Sports

A crucial distinction must be made between watersports where a participant is directly pulled behind a boat and those where the participant is indirectly pulled/trailing, relying on the boat's wake for momentum.

Towed Water Sport (Directly Pulled)

Boat Speed: Considerably higher (e.g., 20 mph minimum) to facilitate skiing, tubing, wakeboarding, etc.

Angle of Attack: Less aggressive.

Environmental Impact: Generally less disturbing. For decades, ski boat manufacturers have worked to reduce wake size, which is minimal above 25 mph.

Wake Surfing (Indirectly Pulled/Trailing)

Boat Speed: Considerably slower, often in the 6-12 mph range.

Angle of Attack: Sharper, required to generate a surfable wave.

Environmental Impact: Creates significantly larger wakes/waves and downward prop wash turbulence. Both factors are known to accelerate lake bottom sediment disturbance and shoreline erosion.

2. Making a Clear Distinction Between Wake Boarding and Wake Surfing

These two terms are frequently and incorrectly used interchangeably. We propose a regulatory framework that uses two distinct categories:

1. Wake Surfing: A sport where the rider gets up with a rope but immediately releases it, transitioning to trailing behind the boat and riding the boat's wave without direct pull.
2. Towed Water Sports: All other sports requiring the direct pull of a towboat (e.g., water skiing, tubing, and wake boarding).

For clarity and consistency, we strongly recommend adopting the following definitions:

- "Towed Water Sport" shall mean any recreational activity where a person or persons glide, ride, or perform maneuvers on or above the water's surface while being directly pulled behind a motorboat or other powered watercraft using a rope, towline, or similar device. (Examples may include water skiing, wake boarding, knee boarding, or tubing.)

- **"Wake Surfing" shall mean a water sport in which a rider, standing on a board without foot bindings (similar to a surfboard) trails behind a boat, riding the boat's wave without being directly pulled by the boat. After getting up on the water, the participant may ride the steep face below the wave's peak in a fashion similar to surfing.**

You may also wish to define a specialized vessel:

- **"Wake Boat" shall mean a vessel employing one or more ballast tanks, weight-loading, hydrofoils, wake shapers, or any other device(s) to artificially enhance or increase its wake. A condition referred to as "surf mode."**

3. Emphasizing Operator Responsibility for Wake Damage

Connecticut law already establishes operator responsibility for wake damage, a provision that must be leveraged and enforced.

Connecticut Law (Title 15, Navigation and Aeronautics): Operators of vessels are responsible for damage caused by their wakes. Furthermore, a vessel's wake "shall not be such that it creates a danger or injury to persons or will damage vessels or structures of any kind."

This existing law is critical because damage is not exclusive to wake surfing; any large boat traveling at an impactful speed near the shore can create detrimental wake-related damage. Our proposed ordinance extends this concept to regulate all impactful near-shore activity:

On the waters of XXXXXXXX, no person shall operate a vessel that is engaged in wake surfing within FIVE HUNDRED (500) feet of shore and no wake boat operating in "surf mode" or other vessel with a weight in excess of 6,000 pounds shall cruise or engage in any activity at a range of speed between 6-12 mph within FIVE HUNDRED (500) feet of shore.

I trust this input will be valuable to your study and aid in developing effective, protective regulations for the lake.

**Peter F. Longo
2035302324**

From: Jonathan Puhalski <puhalskijonathan@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 12:28 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day. I would like to offer comment on the wake boat survey.

I fish quite often and have had many an encounter with these wake boats, often posing serious safety concerns to myself and passengers. When and if I'm aware of a wake boat operating nearby me, it interrupts fishing due to me having to leave the deck and secure myself in the cockpit area. Myself and others have been "surprised" by these large wakes on occasion causing us to fall and come close to major medical injuries. Very often, the wake being thrown from these boats is enough to have water intrude into my 19 foot fishing boat causing the bilge pump to be activated. Compounding the issue is very often a wake boat will operate in the same area for long periods of time while someone is "learning" how to surf behind these boats.

In addition to my own well being while trying to recreate I have witnessed docks being broken due to the excessive waves thrown off by these wake boats. On water bodies that have limited natural shoreline, but instead have many retaining walls, these excessive waves continue to bounce back and forth across a water body affecting other water users with little warning. On water bodies that do have natural shorelines, the excessive erosion these wake boats cause is amply evident in the "mud lines" that form due to these large waves.

I have also witnessed paddle boarders thrown into the water while encountering these waves. I have also witnessed small "sunfish" style sailboats completely swamped from the wake of a wake boat, and numerous other smaller vessels having to endure a potentially dangerous situation.

In summary, the wave given off by these wake boats exceeds any natural wave action a given body of water would ever see. The increased risk of property damage and the very real threat of physical harm to us fellow recreational folks is a matter that I am happy to see the DEEP ready to address.

Thank you,

Jonathan Puhalski

puhalskijonathan@gmail.com

From: Spencer Alvarez <spenceralvarez58@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 8:32 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and wakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I have lived on candlewood for 37 years and the shoreline is falling apart on my side of the lake by Lynn demming broken docks seriously have had my boat flooded 3 times from them and there eroding the whole shoreline

From: R Redden <reddeninfo@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 8:00 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Re: Public Comment on Candlewood Lake Management

Dear DEEP Officials,

I am writing as a waterfront homeowner on Candlewood Lake for over 40 years to express my concerns about the increasing impacts of recreational boating on our lake and to offer constructive suggestions for improved management.

Public Access and Funding

I propose implementing launch fees of \$50-\$100 per use at public boat ramps. This revenue could support DEEP operations or the Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA) and help fund enhanced enforcement and lake management programs. While I recognize that Candlewood Lake is larger and more recreational in nature than lakes like Waramaug, and I am not suggesting we eliminate recreational boating, some reasonable limitations are necessary to protect both the lake environment and waterfront property.

Personal Experience and Safety Concerns

My property is located at the tip of a peninsula in Echo Bay, one of the busiest sections of the lake. Over my four decades of ownership, I have witnessed significant deterioration directly attributable to recreational boating impacts:

-
-
- **Shoreline Damage:**
- Increasingly large wakes have progressively displaced our seawall and eroded our shoreline
-
-
-
- **Property Damage:**
- Bolts securing our dock have broken repeatedly due to constant bouncing from wave action
-
-
-
- **Safety Violations:**
- Boats and jet skis routinely cut the corner near our property, often coming within 15 feet of our dock—well inside the legally required 100-foot boundary
-
-
-
- **Collision Risks:**
- This is a blind corner, and I have personally witnessed numerous near head-on collisions
-

Enforcement Gap

There is clearly an inadequate number of enforcement personnel to patrol the entire lake effectively. Current staffing levels cannot address the persistent violations occurring throughout the lake on a daily basis.

RecommendationsTo: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

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Enforcement Gap

There is clearly an inadequate number of enforcement personnel to patrol the entire lake effectively. Current staffing levels cannot address the persistent violations occurring throughout the lake on a daily basis.

RecommendationsI respectfully urge DEEP to consider the following measures:

- 1.
- 2.

3. **Wake Size Limitations:**
4. Establish and enforce limits on the size of wakes that vessels may produce, particularly in residential areas and narrow passages
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. **Strict Boundary Enforcement:**
9. Aggressively enforce the 100-foot distance requirement from docks, shorelines, and swimmers
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. **Designated Activity Zones:**
14. Create specific areas for wakeboarding, wake surfing, and other high-wake activities away from residential shorelines
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
18. **Reduced Speed Limits:**
19. Implement lower speed limits in congested areas, narrow passages, and residential zones
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
23. **Increased Enforcement Presence:**
24. Use launch fee revenue to fund additional marine patrol officers and extend patrol hours during peak usage times
- 25.

Candlewood Lake is a precious resource that must be protected for future generations. Balanced regulation that allows for recreational enjoyment while protecting property, safety, and the lake ecosystem is both necessary and achievable.

Thank you for considering these comments and for your stewardship of Connecticut's water resources.

Sincerely,

Roberta Redden

From: James Moran <dmbphan@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 7:21 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a resident of New Fairfield, on candlewood lake. I am also a fan of water sports (wakeboarding and waterskiing). As a resident, I enjoy the lake and don't mind the boating activity, but the wake of a wakeboat has killed some of the enjoyment. Even when keeping a reasonable distance from my dock and shoreline, the wake carries and hits the docks hard. While the dock can withstand the waves without much problem, our boat crashes hard into the side bumpers and anyone standing or sitting on the dock gets tossed around. Sure, that happens with a normal boats wake, but this is another level. This season, a wakeboat with someone surfing behind was closer to our dock than I thought reasonable, but still a legal distance away. One of my kids got knocked into the water from the movement of the dock as they didn't see the wake coming.

It's also been shown that the larger wakes cause more erosion to the shoreline. While our property has a stone wall along the water to prevent erosion, the public islands and beaches do not. Short term, no issues, but long term there will be issues with shorelines and erosion.

My opinion is wake boats should not be allowed in shallower or skinnier parts of the lake or tougher regulations (distance from shore, size of wake, etc.) need to be put in place and enforced so that everyone can enjoy the lake equally.

Sent from a random place in space and time.

From: Topwaterblzt 247 <travisjg29@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 7:29 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat & wake surf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Connecticut DEEP,

I am writing to formally express concern regarding the operation of wake boats on Connecticut's inland lakes and to respectfully request that the CT DEEP take action to ban their use on these waters. While wake boats offer a form of recreation for some users, the risks and damage associated with their operation have become increasingly evident and severe.

Safety Risks:

Wake boats generate large, artificial wakes that create dangerous conditions for other lake users — especially fishermen, kayakers, paddleboarders, and swimmers. These enhanced waves can swamp small boats, destabilize kayaks, and push individuals dangerously close to shorelines and structures. Anglers in particular face significant safety challenges, as these intense wakes make it difficult to safely anchor or fish in traditional areas. The size and power of these wakes are incompatible with the confined nature of many of Connecticut's inland lakes.

Environmental and Property Damage:

The destructive wakes from these boats accelerate shoreline erosion, degrading natural habitats vital to fish spawning, aquatic vegetation, and nesting waterfowl. The resulting sediment disturbance reduces water clarity and harms the ecological balance of our lakes. Additionally, the constant pounding of large waves causes costly damage to docks, moored boats, and other waterfront property, impacting both private homeowners and public resources.

Wake boats were designed for large, open bodies of water — not small, sensitive inland lakes. Their operation in these environments has repeatedly demonstrated an incompatibility with safe recreation, environmental protection, and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

For these reasons, I urge the CT DEEP to take decisive action to prohibit the use of wake boats on Connecticut's inland lakes. A statewide ban would protect public safety, preserve critical habitat, and ensure that our lakes remain accessible and enjoyable for all users for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to safeguarding Connecticut's waterways.

Sincerely,
Travis Gilberti

From: Jennifer Yamuder <jennifer.yamuder@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 7:41 AM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Deep,

Thank you for keeping our waterways safe. We are very glad to see this study is enacted as we have had concerns for the last few years about the unregulated use of Wake Boats in Candlewood Lake.

We are privileged to live lakefront in Brookfield. We have been here for 6 years now and have seen a significant increase in wakes, waves, erosion, damage to our waterfront and personal property as well as safety issues created by these boats. While we want everyone to enjoy the lake there seems to be a lawlessness that is occurring and from our perspective here we have seen the following:

- 1)our plastic dock cracked in half at the pressure point where it was attached to floating dock due to continuous and violent waves.The manufacturer said they had never seen this happen before.
- 2)our cement stairs into the water that we had constructed only 2 years ago became undermined by 8-10 inches and had to be repaired this past winter. Specifically due to erosion of the lake bed.
- 3)our lake seawall has significant missing cement and even stones this past summer that we will need to fix
- 4)we have been frightened when anchored in the lake by boats creating giant wakes and our boat rocking violently (these boats have gotten very close to us when we were still.
- 5)we live across from another land mass that is not terribly far and these boats speed through the waterway which creates such large waves at the shoreline, perhaps we have a no wake zone here?
- 6)perhaps create an area where wake surfing is allowed or perhaps we do not allow this any more...it is destructive. Perhaps we monitor when/where or how many of these boats are allowed on the lake in one given day?
- 7)perhaps the violent water is effecting fish and wildlife? Has the lake bed been effected (I am certain it has where we live as we had a buried boulder that we could not see 6 years ago is now 8-10 inches exposed.

PLEASE MAKE SOME RULES AND ENFORCE THEM FOR ALL THE PEOPLE THAT LOVE THIS LAKE AND FOR THE HOMEOWNERS THAT HAVE TO REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE THAT IS BEING CAUSED.

THANK YOU!!!!!!

The Yamuder Family

160 N Lake Shore Dr

Brookfield CT 06804

From: Kyle Lud <laxpuck925@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 8:37 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and wake surf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing to address my concerns regarding the use of wake boats on the lake. I have both safety concerns and ecological concerns. I have first hand had multiple instances on the lake where my boat required bilging for 10-20 minutes due to a wake boat. I have also found it unsafe to stand on the boat while anchored. It makes the lake quite literally unenjoyable to go on almost all summer. The loss of weeds, and inability of the weeds to grow also doesn't shock me and seems to line up with the rise in popularity of wake boats. Studies in Minnesota shows the absolute carnage it caused to the lake floor. I believe a wake boat ban would be extremely beneficial for the lake and its users.

Sincerely,
Kyle Ludwig

From: Michael Palma <michael.palma070@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 9:48 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and water study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

In my experience on Candlewood Lake wake boats are not compatible with any of the lake activities except perhaps water skiing. The wakes and subsequent wave action is dangerous or disruptive to fishermen, kayaks, canoes, swimmers, paddle boards and most boaters. We use a 20' pontoon on the lake and have been bounced around many times and perhaps dangerously so when passed on both sides simultaneously.

Sincerely,

Michael Palma

Candlewood Isle, New Fairfield I

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kelley Lanahan <lanahan@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 11:28 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Board Boats

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As a boater on Candlewood Lake, I find wakeboarding vessels incredibly irresponsible and destructive to our lake environment. The “churn up” is not only annoying to regular boaters (hold on to everything on board), but stirs up hard minerals from latent Housitanc pollution.

Please ban wake boats. Those who want the thrill can waterski.

Thank you

From: Matthew Rahuba <matthewrahuba@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 8:11:25 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake boat and wake surf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am an avid angler and fish Candlewood lake very often. The issues of wake boarding is becoming very dangerous on this body of water in particular. They will run right next to you while fishing with no regards for safety or courtesy of angler. It's an accident waiting to happen they are unaware of water depth. And often roll right over spawning bass beds in 8' or less

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jordan Catala <jordancatala@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:39:20 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Wake Boat
& Wakesurf Study

Dear Connecticut DEEP,

I am writing to formally express concern regarding the operation of wake boats on Connecticut's inland lakes and to respectfully request that the CT DEEP take action to ban their use on these waters. While wake boats offer a form of recreation for some users, the risks and damage associated with their operation have become increasingly evident and severe.

Safety Risks:

Wake boats generate large, artificial wakes that create dangerous conditions for other lake users — especially fishermen, kayakers, paddleboarders, and swimmers. These enhanced waves can swamp small boats, destabilize kayaks, and push individuals dangerously close to shorelines and structures. Anglers in particular face significant safety challenges, as these intense wakes make it difficult to safely anchor or fish in traditional areas. The size and power of these wakes are incompatible with the confined nature of many of Connecticut's inland lakes.

Environmental and Property Damage:

The destructive wakes from these boats accelerate shoreline erosion, degrading natural habitats vital to fish spawning, aquatic vegetation, and nesting waterfowl. The resulting sediment disturbance reduces water clarity and harms the ecological balance of our lakes. Additionally, the constant pounding of large waves causes costly damage to docks, moored boats, and other waterfront property, impacting both private homeowners and public resources.

Wake boats were designed for large, open bodies of water — not small, sensitive inland lakes. Their operation in these environments has repeatedly demonstrated an incompatibility with safe recreation, environmental protection, and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

For these reasons, I urge the CT DEEP to take decisive action to prohibit the use of wake boats on Connecticut's inland lakes. A statewide ban would protect public safety, preserve critical habitat, and ensure that our lakes remain accessible and enjoyable for all users for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to safeguarding Connecticut's waterways.

Sincerely,
Jordan Catala

From: Chris Counihan <ccounihan2@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:29:49 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: "Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study"

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEEP,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to express some growing concerns regarding the use of wake boats on Candlewood Lake. While I understand that many enjoy wake sports, the effects of these boats on our lake's health and safety are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

Wake boats are designed to create large, powerful waves that can have unintended consequences in smaller or environmentally sensitive lakes. Some of the key concerns include:

1. **Shoreline Erosion:** The large wakes generated by these boats can accelerate shoreline erosion, damaging natural habitats and private property. This erosion often leads to increased sedimentation, which negatively affects water clarity and aquatic vegetation.
2. **Safety Risks:** The size and force of the wakes can pose hazards to smaller watercraft, paddlers, anglers, and swimmers. These conditions can make the lake less enjoyable and more dangerous for other users.
3. **Environmental Impact:** The ballast systems used to create larger wakes can unintentionally spread invasive species between lakes if not properly cleaned and drained. Additionally, the increased turbulence stirs up sediments and nutrients that can degrade water quality.
4. **Noise and Disturbance:** The noise levels and repetitive wake patterns can disturb wildlife and reduce the peace and quiet many residents and visitors value.

I believe that with thoughtful discussion and potential regulation—such as minimum distance requirements from shorelines, designated wake zones, or limits on ballast use—we can find a balance between recreation and preservation.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns. Protecting the long-term health and enjoyment of Candlewood Lake benefits everyone who loves and depends on it.

Thank you,
Chris Counihan

Sent from my iPhone

From: THOMAS PERKINS <tperkinsct@mac.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 5:17:55 PM

To: DEEP Boating <deep.boating@ct.gov>

Subject: Wakeboat & Wakesurf study

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I have lived in New Fairfield all my life, I am currently 74 years old. I have been swimming and boateing on Candlewood Lake for decades and currently live in one of the lake communities in New Fairfield. I have a boat, a 16' center console with which my wife and I enjoy the lake, usually at no-wake speeds.

I find it distressing to see the impact to the shoreline that wake boats have made. I have never seen so many trees fallen into the lake due to erosion of the shoreline caused by wakeboats and also by very large boats that travel at inefficient speeds thus creating huge wakes. This erosion is a recent development, within the last 15 years or so, coinciding with the popularity of wake surfing/wakeboarding. These boats have, as you are no doubt aware, ballast tanks that lower the boat into the water in order to produce the large wakes.

Just yesterday, October 6, I was noticing large sections of wooded areas where there are now vertical dirt banks where once there was a gentler slope; in many of those places were trees fallen into the water or exposed root systems.

It is inevitable that over the years that the lake would become a more popular recreational destination but I feel it has reached its limit as of the present. In order for it to continue to be a viable source of recreation there needs to be some limits on use and one of those limits should be the elimination of wakeboarding/wakesurfing as an activity.

Thank you,
Tom Perkins
New Fairfield, CT

From: colin@mainelakes.org <colin@mainelakes.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 2:40 PM

To: Luce, Jason <Jason.Luce@maine.gov>

Cc: 'Martina Witts' <martina.witts@gmail.com>; Susan Gallo <sgallo@lakes.me>

Subject: FW: U of MN Prop Wash research has been released!

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jason,

The University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory just released their study results regarding the depth of disturbance for wake surfing vs planing and “leisure cruising” (when the bow is up and the boat is going 7-9 mph). I encourage you to check out the project summary: [Phase 2 project summary](#). It is a quick read. To summarize the summary: wake surfing should be in depths greater than 20 feet. Planing and “leisure cruising” should be in depths of at least 10 feet.

Most of all, I hope you will download and watch the videos. [Phase 2 underlying data including videos](#) The videos are all short but well worth watching. The level of disturbance at 14 feet of depth is extensive and dramatic.

If you don't have time to download the videos, you could watch this short news section which includes some of the video highlights. <https://www.fox6now.com/news/wakesurfing-lakebed-impact-study-video-released-university-minnesota>

Hope you are having a good summer. Quite an exciting Tuesday in the Bayou by the Songo River inlet! Gotta put that blower on...

Colin

From: Marc Rogg <marc@echobaymarina.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 11:41 AM

To: Francis, Peter <Peter.Francis@ct.gov>

Subject: Re: Connecticut Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study - Opportunity to Comment

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Sounds great Peter. We need a plan that balances fun, water quality, safety etc. There is a happy medium in there. Dont worry though, whatever you come up with people will have unkind words for you.

Thx

Marc

P.S. We really should talk about some boat rental rules as well. That segment is exploding and the more safety protocols we can build into the experience the better. I can give you a template of what I think good controls would look like, you guys can review and decide if it makes sense to go forward. My real worry is some bad accident and then a boomerang set of legislation that causes all sorts of hiccup for us as well as other operators. Why not try and prevent the accident from occurring to the best of our abilities without making it so crazy complicated that it is not feasible to rent or have a boat club...

From: Howland, Alexi (PARKS) <Alexi.Howland@parks.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Francis, Peter <Peter.Francis@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecticut Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study - Request for Studies

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Peter,

Hope you're doing well! Unfortunately, I don't have any studies to share with you from NYS. I will say that this was a predominant issue brought up in 2024, but we did not hear about it at all in 2025 (knock on wood). I'm sure more people prioritized complaining about our mandatory boating education but was surprised to not hear anything about wakeboats.

When I was discussing this with legal in 2024, one of the biggest challenges we thought we would face if we did pursue policy/legislation, was the verbiage. If the policy is "wakeboats can't operate in a waterway unless it is XX' deep or XX' wide" then the issue would be wakeboats who are NOT wake surfing, or other boats that aren't technically wakeboats but have after-market modifications allowing them to be used for wake surfing. If we did end up having to pursue a change, our thought was to identify the activity rather than the type of boat to circumvent these loopholes.

Also, we haven't corrected this yet, but our law calls for those engaging in watersports that are "towed" by a vessel to wear a PFD. So far, people have made the reasonable decision to wear a PFD while wake surfing, as well, however, *technically* our law doesn't require it.

I'm not sure I was very helpful but just wanted to give you our main takeaways from initial meetings last calendar year.

Happy to discuss anytime and good luck with the study!

Thanks,
Lexi

Alexi M. Howland
Director, Marine Services & Recreational Vehicles

Hello Selectman Haines, Dill and Bourgoin,

I am reaching out to you to ask to PLEASE support the ban of surfing waves on Bashen Lake and please support prohibiting any vessel from taking on water ballast to submerge the stern.

Bashan Lake is simply too small of a lake to support wake-surfing. Only being 275 acres and having a minimal area with depths greater than 25 feet is just not suitable.

Even lakes that are much bigger than Bashen Lake are in trouble of being ruined due to this new activity. All lakes in any state are in trouble.

There already been several residents effected by the waves created from wake-surfing. People have been knocked over, docks and boats being slammed against each other, kids finishing on docks being bounced around and that just a few.

Below I have listed the bullet points I came across from my research of the effects of wake-surfing. Please read as it provides details on what will happen to our lake in a very short time. Per DEEP limnologist Bashen Lake would last 8 to 10 years before it completely lost. That does not count the years from now until then in which we will start feeling the affects, like algae blooms, lost of fish stock, being over run with invasive weeds and plants.

The BLA (Bashen Lake Association) and it's residents have fought a long and a continuous battle against invasive plants to keep our lake alive. This new battle we will not win unless we have your support.

I appreciate your attention in the matter and hope you see why wake-surfing needs to be banned as soon as possible. Otherwise, we will not have a lake any longer. The economic impact to East Haddam will be deviating in my opinion.

Wake surfing can harm a lake by causing shoreline erosion, disrupting sediment, and spreading aquatic invasive species due to the large wakes generated by wake boats. These impacts can degrade water quality and damage aquatic habitats, leading to long-term ecological issues.

Here are some facts and bullet points on the effects of wake-surfing.

1. **Shoreline Erosion:** The large wakes produced by wake surfing boats can erode shorelines, leading to loss of land and habitat for various species. This erosion can destabilize banks and alter the natural landscape.
2. **Sediment Disruption:** The force of the wakes can disturb sediment on the lake bottom, which can release nutrients and pollutants into the water. This disruption can lead to increased turbidity, affecting light penetration and photosynthesis in aquatic plants.
3. **Water Quality Degradation:** Increased sediment and nutrient runoff can lead to algal blooms, which deplete oxygen in the water and create dead zones where aquatic life cannot survive. This can harm fish populations and other aquatic organisms.

4. **Habitat Destruction:** The physical impact of wakes can damage aquatic habitats, such as submerged vegetation and spawning areas for fish. This destruction can lead to declines in fish populations and biodiversity.
5. **Spread of Invasive Species:** Wake surfing boats can inadvertently transport invasive species between water bodies. These species can out compete native flora and fauna, leading to ecological imbalances.
6. **Disturbance to Wildlife:** The noise and activity associated with wake surfing can disturb local wildlife, including nesting birds and other animals that rely on the lake for habitat. This disturbance can lead to stress and reduced reproductive success.
7. **Altered Water Flow:** The wakes can change the natural flow patterns of the water, affecting how nutrients and sediments are distributed throughout the lake ecosystem.

Overall, the cumulative effects of wake surfing can significantly impact the health and sustainability of lake ecosystems over time.

Effects of wake surfing on a lake, such as a 250-acre lake with an average depth of 25 feet.

1. Immediate Effects (Days to Weeks):

- Shoreline erosion can begin almost immediately, especially in areas with soft or unstable banks.
- Sediment disruption and increased turbidity can occur quickly after wake-surfing activities.

2. Short-Term Effects (Months to a Few Years):

- Algal blooms may develop within a few months if nutrient levels rise due to sediment disturbance.
- Fish populations may start to decline if spawning habitats are damaged or if water quality deteriorates.

3. Medium-Term Effects (3 to 10 Years):

- Continued erosion and habitat destruction can lead to significant changes in the lake's ecosystem, potentially resulting in reduced biodiversity.
- Invasive species may establish themselves within a few years, further complicating ecological dynamics.

4. Long-Term Effects (10+ Years):

- The cumulative impacts of wake surfing can lead to lasting changes in the lake's ecology, including altered fish populations, reduced water quality, and persistent shoreline erosion.
- Recovery of the ecosystem may take many years or even decades, depending on the extent of the damage and the effectiveness of any restoration efforts.

Wake-surfing can affect the thermocline of a lake in several ways:

1. **Increased Water Mixing:** The large wakes generated by wake-surfing boats can create turbulence in the water, leading to increased mixing of the water layers. This mixing can disrupt the stratification that typically occurs in lakes, where warmer water sits on top of cooler water.
2. **Disruption of Temperature Gradients:** The thermocline is the layer in a body of water where the temperature changes rapidly with depth. Wake-surfing can disturb this layer, potentially causing the thermocline to become less defined. This disruption can affect the habitat conditions for fish and other aquatic organisms that rely on stable temperature gradients.
3. **Altered Thermal Profiles:** The operation of wake-surfing boats can introduce warmer water into the lake, especially if engines are running for extended periods. This can raise the overall temperature of the surface layer, potentially affecting the depth and

stability of the thermocline.

4. **Impact on Aquatic Life:** Many fish species and other aquatic organisms have specific temperature preferences for feeding, spawning, and survival. Disruption of the thermocline can lead to stress for these species, as they may struggle to find suitable habitats within their preferred temperature ranges.
5. **Changes in Oxygen Levels:** The mixing of water layers can also affect dissolved oxygen levels. In some cases, increased mixing can enhance oxygen levels in the upper layers, but it may also lead to lower oxygen levels in deeper waters if the thermocline is disrupted, impacting fish and other aquatic life that depend on oxygen-rich environments.

Overall, the effects of wake-surfing on the thermocline can lead to significant changes in the thermal dynamics of a lake, which can have cascading impacts on the entire aquatic ecosystem.

In addition to the previously mentioned ecological impacts, there are several other reasons why wake-surfing can negatively affect a lake:

1. **Increased Boating Traffic:** Wake-surfing can lead to increased boat traffic on the lake, which can contribute to noise pollution and further disturb wildlife. More boats can also increase the risk of accidents and collisions, which can have direct impacts on both human safety and wildlife.
2. **Thermal Pollution:** The operation of boats can introduce warmer water into the lake, especially if engines are running for extended periods. This thermal pollution can disrupt the natural temperature gradients in the water, affecting fish and other aquatic organisms that rely on specific temperature ranges.
3. **Altered Nutrient Cycling:** The physical disturbance caused by wakes can alter the natural cycling of nutrients in the lake. This can lead to imbalances that favor certain species over others, potentially disrupting the entire food web.
4. **Impact on Recreational Use:** As wake-surfing alters the lake's ecology, it may also affect other recreational activities, such as fishing, swimming, and kayaking. This can lead to decreased enjoyment and use of the lake by the community.
5. **Long-Term Changes in Ecosystem Dynamics:** Over time, the cumulative effects of wake-surfing can lead to shifts in the overall ecosystem dynamics, potentially resulting in a less resilient and more vulnerable lake environment.
6. **Loss of Aesthetic Value:** The physical changes to the shoreline and water quality can diminish the aesthetic appeal of the lake, impacting tourism and local economies that rely on the natural beauty of the area.

These factors, combined with the previously discussed ecological impacts, illustrate the complex ways in which wake-surfing can harm a lake's health and sustainability.

Sincerely AnnMarie Galdenzi
Bashen Lake Resident.

Dear First Selectman Irene Haines,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of wake surf boats on Bashan Lake. While these boats may offer a variety of recreational activities for their owners, the specific activity of wake surfing poses significant risks to the lake's ecosystem, shoreline, and the safety of its users.

Bashan Lake, a 273-acre body of water enjoyed by over 1,000 families annually, is simply not large enough to absorb the impact of the large, artificial waves generated by wake surf boats. These waves contribute to shoreline erosion, damage docks and moored boats, and pose a danger to swimmers, paddleboarders, kayakers, and anglers. I have personally witnessed individuals being knocked over in shallow water and seen the disruption caused to those fishing or enjoying quiet recreation.

Moreover, the turbulence created by wake surfing stirs up lakebed sediment, increasing water turbidity and potentially harming aquatic plants and fish populations. This degradation threatens the long-term health of the lake and diminishes the quality of recreational experiences for all users.

There is also a serious concern regarding the introduction of invasive species through ballast tanks used in wake surf boats. These tanks, which are filled and emptied to create surfable wakes, can carry harmful organisms from other water bodies, further endangering the delicate balance of our lake's ecosystem.

Bashan Lake has remained pristine for over 60 years. Allowing wake surfing to continue risks irreversible damage to this treasured natural resource. Other water sports such as water skiing, kneeboarding, tubing, and wakeboarding can still be enjoyed without the destructive impact of wake surfing.

I urge you to take immediate action to protect Bashan Lake by prohibiting wake surfing. This change will benefit the broader community and preserve the lake's integrity for future use.

To the Bashan Lake Asociation,

I am writing in favor of banning the use of wake boats or other boats which have been modified allowing wake surfing. Wake boats themselves should operate on the lake if they do not engage in wake surfing or similar activities.

I have a small aluminum StarCraft fishing boat which is very difficult to maneuver when encountering the waves made by one of these boats. At times, I feel that it is dangerous, and these waves will swamp my boat. To avoid these situations, I usually use my boat Monday through Friday mid to late morning since the wake boats are usually not on the lake at that time.

As you have been notified, wake boats when used to allow wake surfing cause damage and disruption to the lake floor up to a depth of 20 feet. The bottom is scraped, allowing unwanted vegetation to grow and this action mixes the water layers of the lake as well. Most of Bashan Lake has a water depth of 20 feet or less. Only a very small section supports the wake surfing activity. BLA works very hard to control invasive weeds and thereby works hard to create a healthy lake environment. By allowing wake surfing, it would be contrary to BLA's efforts.

Finally, the size of the waves that these boats make as they reach the shoreline shake docks and hit stone walls very hard enhancing soil erosion. This is also detrimental to the lake.

These waves are also hazardous to young children and the elderly when they are in the water. Since these individuals tend to be less steady on their feet, they are easily thrown about without holding on to something that gives them additional support such as a tube or raft.

For these reasons, safety, lake quality, weed control, and the quickening of soil erosion, I would highly encourage you to support this ban. Thank you for you consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnold K. Olson
74 Smith Road,
Wildwood Corporation
East Haddam, CT

SWANSON

Law^{LLC}

JOHN B. SWANSON
Counselor & Attorney at Law

Admitted:
Connecticut 2002
Washington 1999*

October 22, 2025

Via Electronic Mail (only)

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Email: DEEP.Boating@ct.gov

Re: Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Dear Sir or Madam:

My office represents Bashan Waters Recreational Group LLC ("BWRG") in relation to the regulation of wake surfing on Bashan Lake in East Haddam. This letter and the attachment are being submitted in response to the October 6, 2025 Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment Scope of Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study.

As a threshold matter, BWRG is respectfully requesting that the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection ("DEEP") disapprove the ordinance passed by the Town of East Haddam on August 20, 2025, which appears to be an attempt to completely ban wake surfing and wake boat use on Bashan Lake (hereinafter "EH Ordinance"). As emphasized in my letter to Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation Mason Trumble dated September 26, 2025 (a copy of which is appended hereto), BWRG is requesting that DEEP find the EH Ordinance arbitrary, unreasonable, unnecessarily restrictive and/or inimical to uniformity pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stats. § 15-136 and exercise its statutory authority to disapprove the ordinance.

In response to the Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment Scope of the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study, BWRG is hopeful that DEEP will understand and recognize that virtually all of the environmental concerns associated with wake surfing and wake boat use can be eliminated by reasonable and common sense regulations.¹ BWRG is also hopeful that DEEP (and those that support a complete wake surf ban) will consider and appreciate that wake surfing is much more than just a recreational sport that people do for fun. For many Connecticut families (and families all over the world), wake surfing has become a significant part of their family life and represents an opportunity for "quality family time." Indeed, many wake surfing families have invested countless hours and financial resources to create a family friendly lake lifestyle and participate in wake surfing.

BWRG appreciates that when environmental issues are raised, these issues must be taken seriously, including properly and thoroughly investigating the issues, and when necessary restricting and/or regulating activities that pose an unreasonable risk to the environment. As it

¹ BWRG recognizes and agrees that wake surfing and wake boats are not appropriate for lakes that do not have the recommended depth or size to wake surf safely without endangering the environment or the shoreline, and therefore a ban may be the only reasonable alternative for a given lake due to its particular characteristics.

Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
October 22, 2025
Page 2 of 2

relates to the scope of the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study, BWRG respectfully requests that DEEP approach the study with a focus on developing balanced regulations for wake surfing and wake boat use, rather than pursuing an outright ban.

On behalf of BWRG, thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John B. Swanson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John B. Swanson

JBS\dms

SWANSON

Law^{LLC}

JOHN B. SWANSON
Counselor & Attorney at Law

Admitted:
Connecticut 2002
Washington 1999*

September 26, 2025

Via Electronic Mail (only)

Mason Trumble
Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation
State of Connecticut
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Email: mason.trumble@ct.gov

Re: East Haddam Ordinance Banning Wake Surfing on Bashan Lake

Dear Deputy Commissioner Trumble:

My office has been retained to represent Bashan Waters Recreational Group LLC ("BWRG") in connection with and in opposition to an ordinance passed by the Town of East Haddam at a Town Meeting held on August 20, 2025, which purports to ban wake surfing (hereinafter "EH Ordinance") on Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir. A copy of the ordinance submitted to vote is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.¹ Not only does the EH Ordinance purport to institute a wholesale ban on the sport of wake surfing, but as drafted, the EH Ordinance is confusing and incomprehensible in relation to its regulation of wake surfing, its purported regulation of boats and the regulation of a myriad of other non-objectionable lake activities that fall within its scope.

The EH Ordinance is unconstitutionally vague such that it is impossible to ascertain what watersports activities are permitted and what activities are banned, and therefore the ordinance is unlawful and unenforceable on its face. In addition, insofar as the EH Ordinance purports to legislate a complete prohibition on wake surfing (as opposed to promulgating reasonable, evidence and science-based restrictions specifically applicable to the health and protection of Bashan Lake), the ordinance is arbitrary, unreasonable, unnecessarily restrictive, contrary to regulatory uniformity, and contrary to legislative policy and therefore should be disapproved by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP" or the "Department") pursuant to the authority granted to it under Conn. Gen. Stats. §§ 15-121 et seq. and 22a-1 et seq.

¹ Although Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir have distinct and contrasting differences in characteristics, shape and topography which are highly relevant to the impact wake surfing may have on the respective lakes, the EH Ordinance fails to recognize and account for these differences. While there may be justification for a complete ban of wake surfing on Moodus Reservoir due to its unique characteristics (e.g. shallow depth throughout the lake), these same characteristics are not present on Bashan Lake. The opposition expressed herein is directed at the EH Ordinance's ban of wake surfing on Bashan Lake exclusively.

Mason Trumble
September 26, 2025
Page 2 of 7

Concurrence with Position Paper Submitted by Lake Waramaug Friends for Common-Sense Regulation, Inc.

As you know, an ordinance was recently passed banning wake surfing on Lake Waramaug (hereinafter the “Waramaug Ordinance”) situated in the towns of Kent, Warren, and Washington. My office has thoroughly researched/investigated the circumstances and issues associated with the passage of the Lake Waramaug Ordinance, including review of the letter submitted to DEEP on behalf of Lake Waramaug Friends for Common-Sense Regulation, Inc. (“LWF”) dated June 11, 2025, and the letter and associated Position Paper submitted on behalf of LWF dated September 11, 2025. I have also had numerous in-depth discussions with LWF’s counsel regarding both ordinances and the multitude of common legal issues involved.

Although there are some distinctions between the passage of the EH Ordinance and the Waramaug Ordinance (some of which make the EH Ordinance even less sustainable and will be discussed in more detail below), the vast majority of factual and legal reasons for disapproving the Waramaug Ordinance which were emphasized in LWF’s Position Paper are applicable to the regulation of wake surfing on Bashan Lake and likewise require disapproval of the EH Ordinance, including, but not limited to:

- There is no evidentiary and/or science-based proof that wake surfing has or is causing environmental harm to Bashan Lake.
- The EH Ordinance purports to ban wake surfing but permits other boat/watercraft activities that have the same or greater impact on Bashan Lake.
- Rather than a wholesale ban on wake surfing which will undoubtedly lead to legal challenges and litigation, there exists reasonable and evidence/science-based restrictions on wake surfing which would eliminate the purported environmental concerns.
- Proponents of the EH Ordinance relied on and promoted the same flawed study conducted by Terra Vigilis Environmental Services Group and associated report dated November 15, 2024 which served as the basis for the Waramaug Ordinance (hereinafter the “TV Report”).
- As is clearly demonstrated by a comparison of the provisions of the EH Ordinance and the provisions of the Waramaug Ordinance, the provisions of the two ordinances differ in many important and practical respects and undisputedly create a lack of uniformity.
- The EH Ordinance is unconstitutional in that it is preempted by federal law, it constitutes a regulatory taking of personal property without just compensation and the East Haddam residents that oppose the ordinance were denied due process of law.

Procedural History Related to the Passage of the EH Ordinance

Although there were no reported safety incidents or any semblance of evidence indicating water quality concerns or other environmental issues on Bashan Lake, a few residents complained about wake surfing to the Bashan Lake Association (“BLA”) during the 2023 and 2024 boating seasons. In response, the BLA president disseminated misinformation and unsupported claims to the general BLA membership that wake surfing was causing “many significant ecological and

Mason Trumble
September 26, 2025
Page 3 of 7

safety concerns” and that wake boats create “chaos.” The BLA Board of Directors (“BLA BOD”), acting through its president, made these claims despite having conducted no environmental or other impact studies regarding the effect, if any, wake surfing was having on Bashan Lake.

The BLA BOD brought the wake surf complaints to the Town of East Haddam. According to the BLA BOD, it collaborated with DEEP’s Boating Division and the Town of East Haddam to create a proposed ordinance banning wake surfing. On or about June 9, 2025, the BLA BOD sent a letter to the greater BLA membership entitled “Save Bashan Lake.” See Exhibit 2 attached hereto.² Subsequently, there were numerous discussions between one or more representatives from the Town of East Haddam, the BLA BOD and a group of East Hampton residents who opposed the proposed ban of wake surfing on Bashan Lake. The opponents of the proposed ban submitted alternative provisions for consideration based on the restrictions referenced and recommended in the TV Report to help alleviate any environmental concerns caused by wake boats, but ultimately the Town of East Hampton and the BLA BOD disregarded the alternative provisions proposed by opponents of the ban and submitted the ordinance in question to a vote on August 20, 2025.

The EH Ordinance is Unconstitutionally Vague

The EH Ordinance is unconstitutionally vague and overly broad and will not withstand a constitutional challenge. Although the intent of the EH Ordinance may be to ban the activity generally known as wake surfing, based on the provisions of the ordinance and the language used it is impossible to understand what boating and water sports activities are prohibited, including both general recreational activities that do not even involve a boat or generating a wake and “tow-behind-boat activities.”³ Moreover, the ordinance is also vague in that it purports to restrict the use of boats, but again it is impossible to determine what boat usage is permitted versus what is not.

In evaluating a law for vagueness, the standard to be applied is twofold: (1) the law must provide fair notice of the conduct to which it applies; and (2) the law must establish minimum guidelines to govern law enforcement. See *Baggett v. Bullitt*, 377 U.S. 360, 367 (1964) (“[A] law forbidding or requiring conduct in terms so vague that men of common intelligence must necessarily guess

² Notably, the ordinance ultimately passed by East Haddam on August 20, 2025 (see Exhibit 1) is not the same as the draft ordinance included in the BLA BOD’s June 9th letter (see Exhibit 2). In particular, Section (b)(1) of the draft ordinance provides that “No person shall wake surf on waters of Bashan lake” [sic] whereas the corresponding provision in the ordinance actually passed provides that “No person shall surf on the waters of Bashan Lake.” (emphasis added). This inconsistency represents a fatal flaw in the ordinance and will be discussed in further detail below. In addition, the BOD’s letter asserts that the BOD was asked by the BLA membership to address the “problem” with enhanced waves on Bashan Lake, but there was never a membership-wide request by the BLA to address a purported issue with wake surfing on the lake. There are many lake residents and other East Haddam residents (wake boat owners and non-wake boat owners alike) that do not support a ban on wake surfing. Indeed, given the availability of alternative restrictions to address the concerns raised by the BLA BOD, some residents are concerned about the Town’s exposure to prolonged litigation because the ordinance arbitrarily and without sufficient justification completely prohibits an otherwise safe recreational activity without proper support.

³ For the purposes of the remaining discussion, “tow-behind-boat activities” (hereinafter “TBB activities”) shall mean and refer to, collectively, all of the various water sports involving a person(s) being towed behind a boat for recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, wake surfing, water skiing, wake boarding, tubing, barefooting, hydro foiling, etc.

Mason Trumble
September 26, 2025
Page 4 of 7

at its meaning and differ as to its application violates due process of law."; *see also State v. Schriver*, 207 Conn. 456, 459, 542 A.2d 686 (1988).

The EH Ordinance runs afoul of the constitutional standards for vagueness in many respects. The ordinance passed involves Article II of the Code of the Town of East Hampton, (entitled "Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir"), Section 171-6 (entitled "Water skiing") and adds an entirely new subdivision labeled (b) which includes four additional subparts labeled 1 through 4. See Exhibit 2. Set forth below is a section by section, non-exhaustive summary of the manner in which each subpart of the ordinance is unconstitutionally vague.

(b) On the Waters of Bashan Lake and/or Moodus Reservoir, the following additional rules shall appl:

1. No person shall use any device or method intended to increase or enhance the wake of a motorboat that is underway.

This provision does not define what it means to "increase" or "enhance" the wake of a motorboat. While the provision could be interpreted to mean it prohibits devices and methods which "increase" or "enhance" a wake by making it bigger, the ordinance does not specify what is meant by "increase" or "enhance" and therefore it is vague. For example, it is not clear whether the ordinance prohibits use of a "device" or "manner" to decrease the size of a given boat's wake which, depending on your perspective, could be considered to "enhance" the wake.

Another example of the ordinance's vagueness relates to the use of the term "method" (of increasing or enhancing the wake) without further definition. In order to generate a larger wake, many wake boats have ballast tanks which are filled with water to increase the weight of the boat, thereby displacing more water and making a bigger wake. Indeed, prohibiting the use of ballast tanks and adding weight to boats and the claimed negative environmental impact is a cornerstone of the argument being made by proponents of banning wake surfing. In addition to use of ballast tanks, another "method" wake surfers use to increase the size of the wake is to add weight by having as many passengers as the boat's capacity rating will allow. If a boat owner has numerous passengers or larger passengers that weigh more, will this be considered a "method" of "increasing" or "enhancing" the wake and therefore subject a boat owner to prosecution for violating the ordinance?

2. No person shall surf on the waters of Bashan Lake and/or Moodus Reservoir.

First, it is significant to point out that this particular section of the ordinance passed by the Town of East Haddam on August 20th uses the term "surf" not "wake surf," as was originally proposed and circulated by the BLA BOD in its Save Bashan Lake letter. See Exhibits 1 and 2. This is decidedly problematic for at least two reasons. The term "surf" (as opposed to "wake surf") is not defined in the EH Ordinance and therefore it is not clear what activities are prohibited. The term surf could encompass many otherwise unobjectionable TBB activities that do not involve any environmental concerns, such as simply sitting on a raft and being towed behind a boat at idle speed with no wake generated whatsoever. The ordinance provides no means of distinguishing this activity from actual wake surfing. Moreover, this subpart represents a standalone ban of the undefined activity "surf" and does not appear in any way to be limited to the regulation of boat-related activities, and as such could include non-boating activities such as paddle boarding, kite-surfing or riding a self-propelled foil board.

Mason Trumble
September 26, 2025
Page 5 of 7

The use of the undefined term “surf” is not only problematic in and of itself, but given the ordinance inserts the term “wake surf” in the next subpart and then goes on to define “wake surf” in the last subpart, the ordinance becomes even more vague and inherently inconsistent. Indeed, in reviewing the ordinance carefully from a practical perspective, it is difficult to conceive how a citizen of common intelligence will be able to ascertain what conduct is prohibited on Bashan Lake and what is allowed. Furthermore, the ordinance likewise provides for no standards or directive for law enforcement to evaluate the conduct or activities of citizens using the lake and to ascertain whether a given set of facts and circumstances leads to the conclusion that the citizen involved is engaged in prohibited and unlawful activity (i.e. “surf”) and therefore violating the ordinance.

3. No person shall operate any motorboat in such a manner as to allow a person to wake surf on the waters of Bashan Lake and/or Moodus Reservoir.
4. For the purposes of this section the term “wake surf” means to surf the wake or attempt to surf the wake created by a motorboat while connected to, or disconnected from, said motorboat. The term “motorboat” shall mean the same as in Connecticut General Statute Section 15-127.

Section 3 purports to prohibit wake surfing and is intertwined with Section 4 which defines what is meant by “wake surf,” and therefore a discussion of one section necessarily involves consideration of both. Section 3 purports to regulate the actions of boat operators (as opposed to the person engaged in the TBB activity such as the skier or rider), and mandates that it is unlawful to operate a boat “in such a manner” as to “allow” a person to “wake surf” on Bashan Lake. Section 4 subsequently broadly defines “wake surf” as meaning to “surf the wake or attempt to surf the wake” of a boat while “connected to or disconnected from” the boat. As emphasized above, the ordinance fails to define the term “surf.”

The permutations of how Sections 3 and 4 of the EH Ordinance create vagueness are varied and many. By first using the undefined term “surf” and then defining “wake surf” to mean “surf the wake” or “attempt to surf the wake,” the ordinance is based on tautologies and circular reasoning. Furthermore, because it fails to define “surf” and “wake surf” adequately, the ordinance could be interpreted to encompass not only wake surfing as it is commonly understood, but also TBB activities which presumably are unobjectionable to the ban proponents and are intended to remain lawful, such as water skiing or tubing. Should the ordinance be approved, TBB activity enthusiasts will be left to guess as to what they are permitted to do and what is considered unlawful “wake surfing.” If a person is engaged in normal water skiing behind a regular boat with no ballast or wake shaping devices deployed so the wake size is not in any way increased or changed (i.e. no manipulation of wake size or shape and no resulting environmental concerns) and the rider edges up and down the crest of the organically generated wake of the boat, would this fall within the definition of “wake surf?” If a person riding a tube behind a boat with an organically-generated wake rides the tube in a fashion that causes the tube to be pushed and advanced forward by the force of the wake, is this considered to “surf the wake” or “attempt to surf the wake?”

The ordinance’s intrinsic ambiguity and vagueness is further complicated because the ordinance defines “wake surfing” to include being “connected to, or disconnected from” the boat. Wake surfing is widely known and characterized by the rider or surfer riding behind a boat without a rope and is the very essence of wake surfing. The concept of the rider/surfer being disconnected from the boat is the underlying reason wake boats use ballast tanks and other wake devices to increase the size of the wake and generate a more powerful and clean surfable wake on one side of the boat which allows the surfer drop the rope attached to the boat and keep surfing the wake.

Mason Trumble
September 26, 2025
Page 6 of 7

Wikipedia, Wakesurfing defined and explained, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakesurfing> (accessed Sept. 23, 2025). By purporting to ban TBB activities that involve being both connected and disconnected to the boat, the ordinance is confusing and does not provide fair notice to citizens using the lake as to whether or not a given activity violates the ordinance.

In sum, by failing to adequately define “surf” and “wake surf” and by defining “wake surf” to include activities connected to or disconnected from the boat, the EH Ordinance can be read and interpreted to encompass almost any TBB activity and many non-boating activities alike which will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to abide by and enforce the ordinance.

No Study or Impact Analysis was Performed on Bashan Lake Supporting the Ban

Based on information and belief, at no time prior to the passage of the EH Ordinance did the BLA BOD, the Town of East Haddam or any proponent of the ordinance requisition a study or retain a qualified professional to analyze the impact wake surfing has had or is having on Bashan Lake. The Save Bashan Lake letter sent by the BLA BOD cited to no study or expert analysis in support of its assertions but instead summarily proclaimed that “[t]he BLA board members additionally found these vessels also damage the fragile ecosystems of the lake, for example, shoreline [sic] erosion, clarity of the water, scoring the bottom of the lake, and change in thermocline layer disrupting the oxygenation for fish to survive.” Throughout the deliberations had at town meetings, the only study or report referenced by the BLA BOD or representatives of the Town of East Haddam prior to the passage of the ordinance was the same scientifically flawed TV Report relied on in the passage of the Waramaug Ordinance. As of today’s date, to my knowledge and that of my client, there has not been a single study, report or other environmental assessment of Bashan Lake that indicates that proves there are any concerns with erosion (beyond unavoidable erosion from boats and boat wakes in general) or water quality. It is inconceivable that an ordinance purporting to institute a complete ban on an otherwise unobjectionable family-oriented recreational activity enjoyed globally by many water sport enthusiast without any objective or evidence-based findings specific to Bashan Lake substantiating the claimed environmental issues could be deemed anything other than arbitrary and unreasonable.

An Absolute Ban on Wake Surfing is Unreasonable and Unnecessarily Restrictive

As emphasized in the LWF Position Paper, a complete prohibition on wake surfing is unreasonably and unnecessarily restrictive given there are less restrictive alternatives which would address the environmental concerns raised by the wake surf ban proponents. The TV Report (the very report relied on by the wake surf ban proponents) recommends restrictions and not a ban. Similar to LWF in the case of the Waramaug Ordinance, alternative provisions were discussed and proposed by those opposing the EH Ordinance consistent with the recommendations of the TV Report and similar to the alternative provisions proposed by LWF prior to the passage of the Waramaug Ordinance⁴, but the BLA BOD and the Town of East Haddam insisted on passing the problematic version of the EH Ordinance which is now before DEEP for consideration.

⁴ My client and its constituency have reviewed the Proposed Draft Ordinance submitted with LWF’s September 11, 2025 Position Paper and find it acceptable and would support an ordinance with the same wake surf and wake boat restrictions being imposed on Bashan Lake.

Mason Trumble
September 26, 2025
Page 7 of 7

Conclusion

My client respectfully request that DEEP exercise the authority granted pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stats. § 15-136 and find the EH Ordinance arbitrary, unreasonable, unnecessarily restrictive and/or inimical to uniformity and disapprove the same. In the alternative, although Conn. Gen. Stats. § 15-136 may not specifically provide authority for DEEP to conduct a hearing regarding the passage of the EH Ordinance under subsection (a), my client implores DEEP to exercise its general authority under Conn. Gen. Stats. § 15-121 et seq., Conn. Gen. Stats. 22a-1 et seq. and/or any other general or specific applicable authority and provide a process and forum so my client and all other interested parties have an opportunity to be heard on the matter before DEEP takes action (or the ordinance is approved by the 60 day inaction provision provided § 15-136(a)).

To the extent that you want to discuss this matter further, have questions or require any additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



John B. Swanson

JBS\dms

Cc: Annie Decker, Esq., Chief of Legal, Planning and Regulatory Affairs (annie.decker@ct.gov)
Michael Lambert, Chief of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (michael.lambert@ct.gov)
Peter Francis, Director of Boating Division (peter.francis@ct.gov)
Lee D. Hoffman, Esq. (lhoffman@pullcom.com)

EXHIBIT 1

Chapter 171

BOATING

	ARTICLE I	§ 171-4.	Speed limit after dark.
	Lake Hayward	§ 171-5.	Restricted operation of motorboats.
§ 171-1.	Use of boats powered by internal combustion engine prohibited.	§ 171-6.	Water skiing.
		§ 171-7.	Ski jump areas; regattas.
§ 171-1.1.	Speed limits.	§ 171-8.	Operation of boats with toilets prohibited.
§ 171-2.	Penalties for offenses.	§ 171-9.	Overnight camping prohibited.
		§ 171-10.	Penalties for offenses.
	ARTICLE II		
	Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir		
§ 171-3.	Speed limits.		

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town of East Haddam as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

ARTICLE I
Lake Hayward
[Adopted 8-20-1964]

§ 171-1. Use of boats powered by internal combustion engine prohibited.

Under authority of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, the use of any boat powered by an internal combustion engine, whether inboard or outboard, is prohibited on Lake Hayward (Shaw Lake), East Haddam, Connecticut.

§ 171-1.1. Speed limits. [Added 10-28-2021]

Except for motorboats that are being operated solely under sail, no person shall operate a motorboat in excess of Slow-No-Wake, where the definition of motorboat shall be as stated in Section 15-127 of the General Statutes and the definition of "Slow-No-Wake" shall be as stated in Section 15-121-A1 of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies.

§ 171-2. Penalties for offenses. [Amended 3-28-2018]

Any person or persons violating this article shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$250.

ARTICLE II
Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir
[Adopted 6-30-1966]

§ 171-3. Speed limits. [Amended 3-28-2018]

From 8:00 a.m. through one-half hour after sunset, there shall be a maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour on Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir, but not over eight miles per hour within 75 feet of any canoe, rowboat, sailboat, or any other vessel, or any float dock or the shore, unless approaching said float dock or shore to take off or land water skiers.

§ 171-4. Speed limit after dark. [Amended 2-25-1997]

No person shall operate a vessel at a speed greater than six miles per hour from one-half hour after sunset to 8:00 a.m.

§ 171-5. Restricted operation of motorboats.

There shall be no operation of a motorboat while persons or a person is on the deck, bow, or gunwales of a motorboat.

§ 171-6. Water skiing. [Amended 2-25-1997]

(a) No person shall tow more than two waterskiers simultaneously. Any person who tows a waterskier shall proceed and operate in a counterclockwise traffic pattern.

(b) On the waters of Bashan Lake and/or Moodus Reservoir, the following additional rules shall apply:

1. No person shall use any device or method intended to increase or enhance the wake of a motorboat that is underway.
2. No person shall surf on the waters of Bashan Lake and/or Moodus Reservoir.
3. No person shall operate any motorboat in such a manner as to allow a person to wake surf on the waters of Bashan Lake and/or Moodus Reservoir.
4. For the purposes of this section the term "wake surf" means to surf the wake or attempt to surf the wake created by a motorboat while connected to, or disconnected from, said motorboat. The term "motorboat" shall mean the same as in Connecticut General Statute Section 15-127.

§ 171-7. Ski jump areas; regattas.

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam shall designate ski jump areas and shall control regattas.

§ 171-8. Operation of boats with toilets prohibited.

No boat shall be allowed on said lake and reservoir with a flush or portable toilet.

§ 171-9. Overnight camping prohibited.

There shall be no camping overnight in a boat.

§ 171-10. Penalties for offenses. [Amended 3-28-2018]

Any person, firm, corporation or association violating any of the provisions of this article shall be fined not more than \$250 for each offense.

EXHIBIT 2

SAVE BASHAN LAKE

Dear, Bashan Lake Association Membership,

The BLA Board of Directors has been receiving numerous complaints on the large enhanced waves coming from surf boats. The complaints are from kayakers, boaters, parents of young children swimming, elderly who have been getting knocked down while swimming and residents with damaged docks and boats tied to docks.

Due to the concerns with enhanced waves the BLA was asked by the membership to “fix this problem on Bashan Lake before it gets too big of a problem”. The BLA board members additionally found these vessels also damage the fragile ecosystems of the lake, for example, shore line erosion, clarity of the water, scoring the bottom of the lake, and change in thermocline layer disrupting the oxygenation for fish to survive.

The BLA board members took all of this information and approached the Town of East Haddam to implement an ordinance to ban any enhanced wave devices that cause those large surf waves.

The Town of East Haddam respected and understood our request for the need to save the Bashan Lake ecosystem. The Town sent our request to the State of Connecticut Boating Division for clarity on the ordinance, which we received back from the State Boating Dept:

Below is the ordinance that we are proposing in **bold** print.

(existing) (a) No person shall tow more than two waterskiers simultaneously. Any person who tows a waterskier shall proceed and operate in a counterclockwise traffic pattern.

(b) On the waters of Bashan Lake , the following additional rules shall apply.

- 1) **No person shall use any device or method intended to increase or enhance the wake of a motorboat that is under way.**
- 2) **No person shall wake surf on waters of Bashan lake.**
- 3) **No person shall operate any motorboat in such a manner as to allow a person to wake surf on the waters of Bashan Lake.**
- 4) **For the purpose of this section the term “wake surf” means to surf the wake or attempt to surf the wake created by a motorboat while connected to, or disconnected from, said motorboat. The term “motorboat” shall mean the same as in CGS Section 15-127.**

**The next step in this process will be a public meeting on June 25,2025 at the High School (not the town hall).*

This meeting will give residents an opportunity to speak on why Bashan Lake should have this ordinance and what these boat enhanced waves have done to you and/or your family.

****The more people that speak in favor of the ordinance, the more likely the ordinance will get to the next step.***

In addition, it would also be very beneficial to email the selectman any statements and letter of concerns, and also forward a copy to BLA.

Irene.haines@easthaddam.org

erik.dill@easthaddam.org

tanya.bourgoin@easthaddam.org

mybashanlake@gmail.com

***Understand, the ordinance is not banning any boat on Bashan Lake.**

***The ordinance is not limiting water sports, skiing, barefooting, trick skiing, tubing, wakeboards..**

The BLA Board of Directors encourage all residents to google and research the data on the problems and future damage caused by enhanced surf boats and the waves they create.

Note, newer surf boats are getting larger and heavier,10,000 plus pounds in weight in an effort to create even larger surf waves.These boats will only multiply the number of problems we're already experiencing on Bashan Lake. The propulsion on any surf boat will score the bottom of the lake in less than 25 feet depth of water. Attached is the depth map of Bashan Lake, showing that Bashan Lake is too small of a lake to support surf enhanced devices.

Thank you in advance for supporting the need to have this Ordinance.for Bashan Lake.

“SAVE BASHAN LAKE”

Majority of Board Members in Support of the Ordinance,

Bill Denya <i>President</i>	LAUREL COVE	WILDWOOD	FIELDSTONES
Don Massoni <i>V.President</i>	Mike Widger	James Self	Bill Denya
John Gowac <i>Treasure</i>	Ed Gubbins	Mat Cronin	Tim Young
Sue Deguzis <i>Secretary</i>		Arnold Olson	
SUNSET ACRES	BROOKS/BAILEY COVE	ABBY LANE	AT LARGE
Don Massoni	Garret Cook	Reed Lecrenier	Bruce Fetcher
Chris Baledes	Ron Kapushinski		Larry McClure
John Gowac			Dave Denya
	HICKORY LANE	UNAFFILIATED	Crary Brownell
	Sue Deguzis	Jim Ingala	

*Board Member opposed the ordinance,
Unaffiliated, Gary Laskowski*

I am writing in reference to the surf boats with enhanced waves. I agree with the Bashan Lake Association to ban these boats from Bashan Lake for safety and the ecosystem.

A year or so ago my grandson was in an inflatable boat with an outboard. A wave hit the boat and threw him out of the boat. He couldn't identify the boat or the operator. He was too busy trying to get back in the boat. He wasn't injured but could have been.

Let's be safe and wise and ban these boats.

Thank you for caring about our lake.

Bob Crochetiere

Wild Wood Association

Cottage #2

June 10, 2025

Dear Town of East Haddam Selectman and Bashan Lake Association,

Irene.haines@easthaddam.org

erik.dill@easthaddam.org

tanya.bourgoin@easthaddam.org

mybashanlake@gmail.com

admin@easthaddam.org

Wdenya@att.net

Re: Support in favor of an Ordinance Banning **Wake Boats** on Bashan Lake,
East Haddam, CT

My name is Brenda Magoveny, and I live at 39 Laurel Cove Road, East Haddam, CT. I am in support of an ordinance banning Wake Boats on Bashan Lake for the below reasons:

Wake boats have a negative effect on Bashan Lakes ecosystem primarily through shoreline erosion, sediment disturbance, and the protentional for spreading aquatic invasive species, which the Bashan Lake Association and its members are desperately trying to control. Bashan Lake is a small lake and cannot withstand the powerful wakes generated by wake boats.

The wake from these boats creates powerful wakes making it difficult and dangerous for me to kayak and sail my sunfish sailboat as when the wake boats go by me, the wake is so powerful it could flip my kayak or sailboat over. The wake boats powerful wakes also make it difficult to stand on my boat dock and several times I've almost fallen off the boat dock while trying to balance myself to launch and or dock my 16.5' Lund aluminum boat.

These powerful wakes also create unnecessary wear and tear on our docks and our boats from the wakes crashing into them many hours of the day. Boats and docks are expensive items to own, let alone having to maintain and or replace them. These wakes are destructive. And overtime, they'll become costly to residents who live on the lake.

These wake boats should be banned from Bashan Lake in order to preserve one of the cleanest lakes in Connecticut and to preserve its beauty and fragile ecosystem and to keep all those who use the lake for various recreational activities safe. It's just plain common sense to ban these wake boats. The priority should be for the health the lake and its ecosystem, and for the safety of all the people who enjoy the lake.

Thank you for reading my letter and let's work together to get this ordinance passed.

Brenda Magoveny

Sent via email from my email:
baziemba@yahoo.com

Dear East Haddam Selectmen,

My wife and I strongly support the ordinance to stop and prevent wake surfing behind boats that produce big wakes/waves. The boats that can take on heavy loads of water to make big waves/wakes and their resultant big waves can & do cause major damage to lake bottom plant life and macro- and micro-invertebrates, cause turbulence that scours and stirs up the bottom sediments reducing the water clarity which reduces the growth of aquatic plants and their production of oxygen, makes the water colder, and causes increased shoreline erosion. All this damages the delicate ecology of our lake, decreases water quality leading to less recreational desirability of Bashan's water which in turn eventually reduces property values which then lessens the property tax revenues the Town now enjoys and hurts the recreational economies of town and area businesses. Another negative is that the big waves are rough on the elderly and young kids swimming and playing in the water. While wake/wave surfing is fun exercise and recreation, it causes too much damage to a small, shallow lake like Bashan! The sport and these boats should be taken to deeper waters. Please pass this ordinance to ban wake surfing on Bashan Lake.

Thank you, Bruce & Kris Fletcher
44 Bailey Rd East Haddam
62 Dover Rd New Britain

June 21, 2025

To the Town of East Haddam Board of Selectman,

I am writing to express my support for an ordinance that would ban the use of wave enhancement devices on Bashan Lake.

I have been coming to Bashan lake for 58 years - since 1967! In 1994, I became a resident. I taught my children to swim and love the water here. My family cherishes Bashan Lake for its peaceful atmosphere and pristine water. We have numerous friends come back each year to visit. It only takes one visit to fall in love with Bashan Lake.

These wave enhancement devices can negatively impact many ecosystems. Bashan Lake is known for its cleanliness. Driving past the reservoir seeing all of the lily pads makes me question how much wave enhancement devices will change our water quality. Will Bashan Lake be filled with lily pads in 5 years? Will the weeds we have already been dealing with take over due to the wave enhancements stirring them up and spreading their seeds? If weeds take over, will the fish be impacted? If so, will the water also get murky? How much will my favorite place change in the next 5, 10, or 15 years?

Finally, the wave enhancement devices have me very concerned for my favorite place. The enhanced waves have caused issues with my floating dock, as well as for my boats I have pulled up on it. The enhanced waves crashing splash otherwise dry people relaxing in the sun. Kayaking is a favorite activity for my family, though the large waves often spoil the fun. It stinks when we cannot enjoy our favorite activities.

Bashan Lake has been a special, tucked-away retreat I've loved all my life. Please vote in support for the ordinance prohibiting wave enhancement devices on Bashan Lake.

Sincerely,
Carol Gilbert

Dear Selectmen,

I am writing you to express my support of the proposed wake surf ordinance which would prohibit the creation of surfing waves.

I have read about the damage these boats cause to the environment of the lake. Science indicates that these surfing boats creating enhanced waves will scour the bottom of a lake and destroy the natural vegetation and make room room for the aquatic invasive weeds we already are dealing with. It mixes the natural thermoclines and will cause serious harm to the lake water quality. In addition, it can make for dangerous conditions for young children when these large waves roll in on an otherwise calm day. Dangerous for other watercraft such as stand up paddleboarders and kayakers. These enhanced boat waves are causing erosion along the shoreline and causing damage to docks and waterfronts.

I support an ordinance to not allow enhanced wakes on East Haddam lakes. Please allow this to be decided by the voters of East Haddam as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Chris Baledes
51 Bashan Road
East Haddam CT

Irene Haines, First Selectperson
East Haddam, CT 06423

We would like to express our support for the ordinance to ban wake surfing on Bashan Lake.

We have had a seasonal lake front cottage on Bashan Lake for 52 years. We are deeply concerned about the environmental impact to the lake if enhanced wakes and wake surfing is allowed to exist on the lake. It appears to have been proven that wake surfing should only be allowed on lakes possessing the appropriate water depth of which Bashan Lake does not possess. If anything, the water depths in Bashan have decreased over the past 50 years as the lake has silted in in certain areas. We are also concerned that damage to this lake will ultimately reduce property values which should be a major concern of town leaders.

Aside from the environmental impact there is also the fact that those of us with smaller boats are unable to enjoy the lake at times do to the large waves made by this activity creating a safety issue.

We applaud the work of the Bashan Lake Association in its efforts to keep Bashan one of the best and cleanest lakes in the state. Allowing wake surfing has a negative effect on the lake and its ecosystem and undermines the good work that is being done by this organization.

Sincerely,

Craig and Christina Chalifoux
74 Smith Road #26

Dear Town Of East Haddam Selectman and Bashan Lake Association,

My name is Cynthia Pryde. I'm writing to express deep concern about the increasing use of wake boats on Bashan Lake. As someone who grew up on this lake—part of a family that has cared for it over four generations—I've seen how these boats are threatening everything we value about this place.

Wake boats create large waves that erode the shoreline, stir up sediment, and damage aquatic habitats. This disrupts the ecosystem, harms fish populations, and worsens water quality. These boats also pose safety risks—particularly to children and the elderly—who can easily be knocked down by the force of the wakes.

Bashan Lake is too small to absorb this kind of impact. Without swift action—specifically banning the use of surf functions—we risk permanent environmental damage and the loss of the lake's peaceful, natural character. I am fully in support of banning wake boats on Bashan Lake to protect its health, safety, and future.

Please act now to protect Bashan Lake for future generations.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pryde-Metz

Dear Selectmen,

Please support the Bashan Lake proposed boating ordinance to eliminate wake surfing and the use of wake enhancement devices.

My family have been seasonal residents of Bashan Lake for over 65 years and we have been privileged to enjoy Bashan's crystal clear waters.

We need to do whatever it takes to preserve the water quality for future generations by protecting the ecosystem of the lake. Wake boats in surfing mode disturb the natural thermocline layer and sediments in the lake causing increased nutrients in the water which promote algae growth.

Bashan Lake is a small lake with insufficient deep areas to accommodate wake surfing, as such, it should not be allowed.

Thank you,
Don Massoni
172 Lakeside Drive
East Haddam, Ct.

Irene Haines
First Selectman
East Haddam, CT

via email: Irene.haines@easthaddam.org

With Copies to: Selectman Erik Dill (erik.dill@easthaddam.org); Selectman
Tanya Bourgoïn (Tanya.bourgoïn@easthaddam.org)

Dear First Selectman Haines:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the use of wake boats for the purpose of wake surfing on not only our lake, Bashan Lake, but also any other small lake in East Haddam. The specific activity of wake surfing, via the filling of an onboard ballast system in wake boats adding over 1,000 lbs to the stern of the boat and creating a wave exceeding 6 feet in height poses significant long term harm to ecosystems in small lakes such as Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir.

It is now a known fact that that wake surfing off a full ballast wake boat has caused many issues on lakes across the US, including:

1. The downward thrust in waters less than 25 feet in depth stirs the lake bottom, causing harm to the lake aquatic plants and fish population.
2. The large wave created has contributed to shoreline erosion; has damaged docks and boats docked on them; and poses potential injury the swimmer's, kayakers and paddle boarders.
3. The improper cleaning of the ballast systems when boats are used in various body's of water, thereby introducing other invasive species to our lake.

We are year round residents with our Bashan Rd home residing within the Sunset Acres Association of Bashan Lake. We have been active members of both the Sunset Acres Association as well as active members of the Bashan Lake Association for over 20 years. We have also witnessed 1st hand what a wake boat wave can do, including tossing people off the association dock as it passed down the lake and even damaging our dock last year.

We are not looking to have these boats banned from our lakes as they can be used as normal ski/tube/wakeboard boats, however we strongly request an ordinance prohibiting wake boats from drawing water into their ballast systems for the purpose of creating larger than normal wakes!

Sincerely,

Donald Lorusso
Judy Lorusso

47 Bashan Rd.
East Haddam, CT 06423

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I have vacationed on Bashan Lake for 70 years. The last two years have been quite a different experience than I am used to. The water is much cloudier than it used to be and the wakes of some boats are so large that they threaten to tip my kayak and have knocked me off my paddle board. The waves generated by wake boats are undermining the land behind our wall, have knocked stones from the top and are leaving a gap between our yard and our dock.

I have never noticed these problems in the past and feel they are a direct cause of the heavily ballasted wake boats. Bashan lake is too narrow and too shallow for these boats. Kindly consider banning them before they further disrupt the fragile echo system of our once beautiful lake.

Doreen Kehoe

Dear Selectman,

I am writing to you to express my support of the proposed ordinance to prohibit enhanced boat wakes primarily used to surf on Bashan Lake.

Please allow this to be decided by the voters of East Haddam.

Elizabeth Baledes
51 Bashan Road
East Haddam, CT

To the East Haddam Board of Selectmen,

As a resident of East Haddam, I am writing to express my strong support for the ordinance to prohibit wake surfing on Bashan Lake, specifically the kind done behind boats that create large wakes and waves.

These boats, designed to take on heavy ballast to produce artificially large wakes, cause significant and lasting harm to the lake's ecosystem. The powerful waves they generate disturb the lake bottom, damaging plant life and displacing both macro- and micro-invertebrates. The increased turbulence also stirs up sediment, reducing water clarity and impairing the growth of aquatic vegetation—vegetation that not only stabilizes the lake's ecology but also helps oxygenate the water.

The consequences are far-reaching: colder water temperatures, accelerated shoreline erosion, and an overall degradation of water quality. These changes not only threaten the delicate balance of the lake's environment but also reduce its recreational appeal, ultimately lowering property values and, in turn, impacting the town's tax revenue and the local economy.

In addition, these large waves create unsafe and uncomfortable conditions for children and older adults swimming or playing in the water.

While wake surfing is a popular and enjoyable sport, it simply isn't suited to a small, shallow body of water like Bashan Lake. There are more appropriate locations—larger, deeper lakes—where this activity can be enjoyed without causing such harm.

For the health of our lake and the well-being of our community, I urge you to pass this ordinance and ban wake surfing on Bashan Lake.

Sincerely,

Florence Howes
80 Bailey Rd.
East Haddam, CT
Sent from my iPhone

June 18, 2025

To the Town of East Haddam Select Board: Irene Haines, Erik Dill and Tanya Bourgoin,

My name is Gary Trombley and I live at 44 Laurel Cove Road, East Haddam. I am writing this letter in support of an Ordinance Banning Wake Surf Boats on Bashan Lake.

I am very concerned about the damage the large enhanced waves from surf boats can do, and will continue to do, to the fragile Bashan Lake ecosystem, lakeside properties, and to the people enjoying the lake. I have noticed weeds, some of which I had not seen before, wash up on our shoreline. It was an almost daily activity, especially after a weekend, to pull the weeds out of the lake. After watching several videos demonstrating how a wake surf boat scours the bottom of a lake, I understood why these weeds were washing up on our shoreline. This year, I took a good look at these weeds and noticed fish eggs attached to the weeds. I can only conclude that the downward wash from these boats are destroying fish habitats and nests.

These boats are also spreading aquatic invasive species which the BLA, private residents, the State and others have been desperately trying to control. It's not only scouring the bottom of the lake that causes sediment disturbance and disruption of the invasive species. The invasive weeds can also travel from lake to lake, or river to lake, or vice versa as it is almost impossible for a wake surf boat to empty its ballasts completely.

The large waves from these surf boats have crashed over our floating raft, moored sailboats, docks, and stone wall. The waves also make it difficult and dangerous for me or my family members to kayak, paddleboard, or sail when only one of these boats are on the lake, let alone, more than one. I have experienced floating on our pontoon boat on a Saturday afternoon when two surf boats were on the lake and it was not enjoyable. The large waves crashed over our pontoon and rocked our pontoon back and forth so much that we had to return to shore. I have heard stories from a neighbor that an elderly relative was knocked over by the waves and pushed into a stone wall and a small child was also knocked over.

I urge you to do the right thing and ban the surf boats from Bashan Lake before it's too late. We need to work together to preserve the ecosystem of the lake, to protect lake property, and for the safety of all who enjoy the lake. Bashan Lake is too small and too shallow to withstand the enhanced waves from these boats.

Thank you,

Gary Trombley

I have been a resident of East Haddam and live on Bashan Lake for over twenty years.

I am strongly in favor of the board of Selectman to approve the Ordinance for additional boat safety on Bashan Lake

I have been personally effected by the waves created by the wake boats

My grandchildren can not safely swim or kayak when these boats are in the lake creating these large wakes.

I have had to add addition structure to my dock to stabilize the deck inorder to walk on it when these wakes hit my dock.

I also want to bring your attention to the recent increase in Jet SKi speed and lack of respect for the rules of our lake.

Police patrol use to be at least a weekly presents on the lake. Now we have had no police on our lake. I have witnessed at lease one accident where two jet skis collided and many times when excessive noise and speed has changed the safety and character of our great lake

Thank you

Dr. Greg Egnaczyk

34 Fieldstones Dr.

To the town of East Haddam Select Board: Irene Haines, Erik Dill, Tanya Bourgoin

My name is Gretchen Buys and live locally in Haddam. I am **in support of an ordinance banning Wake Boats on Bashan Lake**. I am writing to you as a concerned member of the community and a lifelong resident of the Bashan Lake area. I have had the privilege of growing up on this lake, and it has been a sacred place for my family for four generations. The peaceful waters, abundant wildlife, and natural beauty of this lake are integral to both the environment and our local way of life. I now find myself deeply troubled by the increasing use of wake boats, particularly those utilizing surf functions, and the significant harm they are causing to our beloved lake.

Wake boats produce enormous waves that cause extensive shoreline erosion, damaging the delicate ecosystems that depend on the stability of the lake's shores. These powerful waves wash away plants that help prevent erosion, disturb the habitats of local wildlife, and contribute to the further degradation of water quality. Such environmental consequences threaten not only the aesthetic and recreational value of the lake but also the health of the entire ecosystem.

Additionally, the wake from these boats presents a serious safety risk, especially to vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and small children. These powerful waves have been known to knock people off their feet, which could result in injuries. A relaxing day on the water should never come with such dangers, yet the use of wake boats creates a hazardous environment for anyone who isn't prepared for the sudden surges in wave activity.

The damaging effects of these boats are already evident on Bashan Lake. Our lake is small, and it cannot sustain the kind of strain that wake boats impose. Without proper regulation, the damage to the shoreline and ecosystem will continue to worsen, and this cherished natural resource could quickly be distorted beyond recognition.

For the health of the environment, the safety of the public, and the preservation of this sacred place that has been part of my family's history for generations, I urge you to swiftly enact an ordinance banning the use of the surf function on wake boats. Such a measure would ensure the continued protection of Bashan Lake and safeguard its future for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that you will act swiftly to protect our community, our environment, and our cherished traditions.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Buys

Sent via email:

Gbuys1010@yahoo.com

Dear Selectmen,

I am a member of the Sunset Acres Association, and I support the enactment of the wake surf ordinance prohibiting the creation of surfing waves. Our association also supports prohibiting any vessel from taking on water ballast to submerge the stern. I have read about the damage these boats cause to the environment of the lake. My husband was on the dock at Sunset Acres beach; there was a wake surf boat on the other side of the lake, and the waves swayed the docks drastically that he was having a hard time standing.

I support this ban and urge you to place this on the meeting agenda for determination by the qualified voters of East Haddam as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cavanaugh, Treasure
Sunset Acres of Bashan Lake, Inc
21 Bashan Lake Rd, East Haddam, CT

John J. Gowac
123 Lakeside Drive
East Haddam, CT 06423

June 12, 2025

Ms. Irene Haines, First Selectman, irene.haines@easthaddam.org.
Mr. Erik Dill, Selectman, erik.dill@easthaddam.org
Ms. Tanya Bourgoin, tanya.bourgoin@easthaddam.org

Re: Banning Wake Boat Surfing

Dear Board of Selectman,

Unfortunately, due to a family commitment, I will not be able to attend the June 25, 2025 Town meeting regarding an ordinance banning wake boat surfing on Bashan Lake. Please read this letter at the meeting and accept this letter as my support of such an ordinance.

As a lifelong resident of the Town, and now a resident on Sunset Acres, I have a number of concerns regarding wake boat surfing. I am concerned about the environmental impact to the lake ecosystem, the impact to the shoreline, to docks and boats, and the safety of swimmers as a result of the waves generated by wake boat surfing.

A number of studies have been done showing how turbulence from wake boat waves impact the lake beds of lakes the size and depth of Bashan Lake. The long-term health of Bashan Lake is critical for the many property owners and should be protected. Bashan Lake is a gem.

On a personal level, I have had two instances where the waves generated by these boats have impacted me and my family members. I was nearly knocked off my dock when one of the waves came across the lake crashing into it, and while playing in the water near our shoreline, my six-year-old granddaughters were knocked over by a wave generated from one of these boats. Quick action by a family member stopped a second wave from pushing the girls into the stone sea wall, which would have caused serious injury. This is unacceptable.

The lake should be protected for all to use and enjoy, not just for the few who wake surf.

I am in total support of an ordinance banning wake boat surfing.

Sincerely,

John J. Gowac

June 21, 2025

To the Town of East Haddam Board of Selectman,

I am writing to state my support for an ordinance prohibiting wave enhancement devices on Bashan Lake.

I have spent numerous summers since I was a baby on Bashan Lake at my grandparents cottage. This is where I learned to swim, as well as many other water sports. My family still visits Bashan Lake often to see family and friends. We love Bashan Lake for its tranquil environment and clear, clean water. I am even looking on the market for my own little slice of Bashan heaven.

All of that being said, the wave enhancement devices have me very concerned. One of my favorite water sports is paddleboarding with my dog. The larger waves make it near impossible to stay standing and my pup almost always falls off. My children are intimidated by the waves and don't like swimming or even being near the water when the big waves are coming by, and that is with a minimal amount of these on the lake. I would hate to buy a property and have the enhanced waves ruin some of our favorite parts of the lake.

In addition to my family's enjoyment, the enhanced waves cause concern for the ecosystems within the lake. While some may say it is only a small impact, I would argue that any extra impact can cause a lot of problems. These enhancement devices can cause fish populations to change, ultimately changing the water. Bashan Lake has had a long reputation of being one of the cleanest lakes in Connecticut - this is one of my favorite parts about this lake! I do not feel gross swimming, I don't have lily pads weeding up and surrounding my legs, and I would love for it to stay that way.

Bashan Lake is a hidden gem that I have loved all my life. Please do the right thing and vote in support for the ordinance prohibiting wave enhancement devices on Bashan.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Bermani

Dear Board of Selectman,

I am writing to voice my support for the proposed Ordinance that would ban the use of wake surfing boats on Bashan Lake. As longtime residents, my family believes that wake surfing boats pose a public safety and environmental impact concern. Simply put, Bashan Lake is too small and too shallow to accommodate this type of boat without endangering the safety of our residents and the ecosystem that we strive to maintain.

I hope the Board will give serious consideration to our concerns and ban the use of wake surfing boats on Bashan Lake.

Sincerely,

Larry McClure

98 Bailey Road

East Haddam

Tanya,

As a selectman in East Haddam I want to let you know how I feel about this issue.

I own property on Bashan Lake, and am for an ordinance prohibiting these types of boats on Bashan Lake. this is any boats that use a device or method intended to increase or enhance the wake of a motor boat under way.

These waves are destroying our waterfronts and are a safety issue for folks in the water. And as our lake is not that deep, they disturb the lake bottom.

thank you

Linda Baccaro

Wildwood / Bashan Lake

Linda L. Baccaro

238 Great Swamp Road

Glastonbury, CT 06033

Board of Selectmen
Town of East Haddam

Re: Wake Boat Ordinance

Dear Selectmen:

I am writing in my capacity as president of the Sunset Acres Beach Association of Bashan Lake.

On June 7, 2025, the Sunset Acres Beach Association of Bashan Lake, Inc., by its Board of Directors and members present, voted unanimously to support the enactment of the wake surf ordinance prohibiting the creation of surfing waves. Our Association is comprised of more than 100 home owners. In addition, we support prohibiting any vessel from taking on water ballast to submerge the stern.

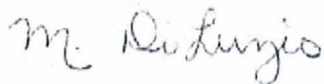
The evidence is clear, wake surfing is an environmental disaster and prevent customary enjoyment of the lake by swimmers, other boaters and anglers. An environmental study commissioned by the State of Vermont and the Lake Waramaug Task Force confirmed a wake boat's downward thrust disturbs the bottom to a depth of no less than 25 feet. These depths are the nursery of all that lives in our lake. Shallow areas are vital to the food chain and wake boats upset this fragile habitat. Maintaining the water quality, clarity and temperature is vital to the integrity of the lake and its usefulness as a recreational area. Please see the informative video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryeiypUPAE>

Bashan Lake is only 275 acres and has a minimal area with depths greater than 25 feet. The area in Bashan Lake which exceeds 25 feet is minuscule and effectively makes responsible wake surfing impossible. (See attached Lake Map).

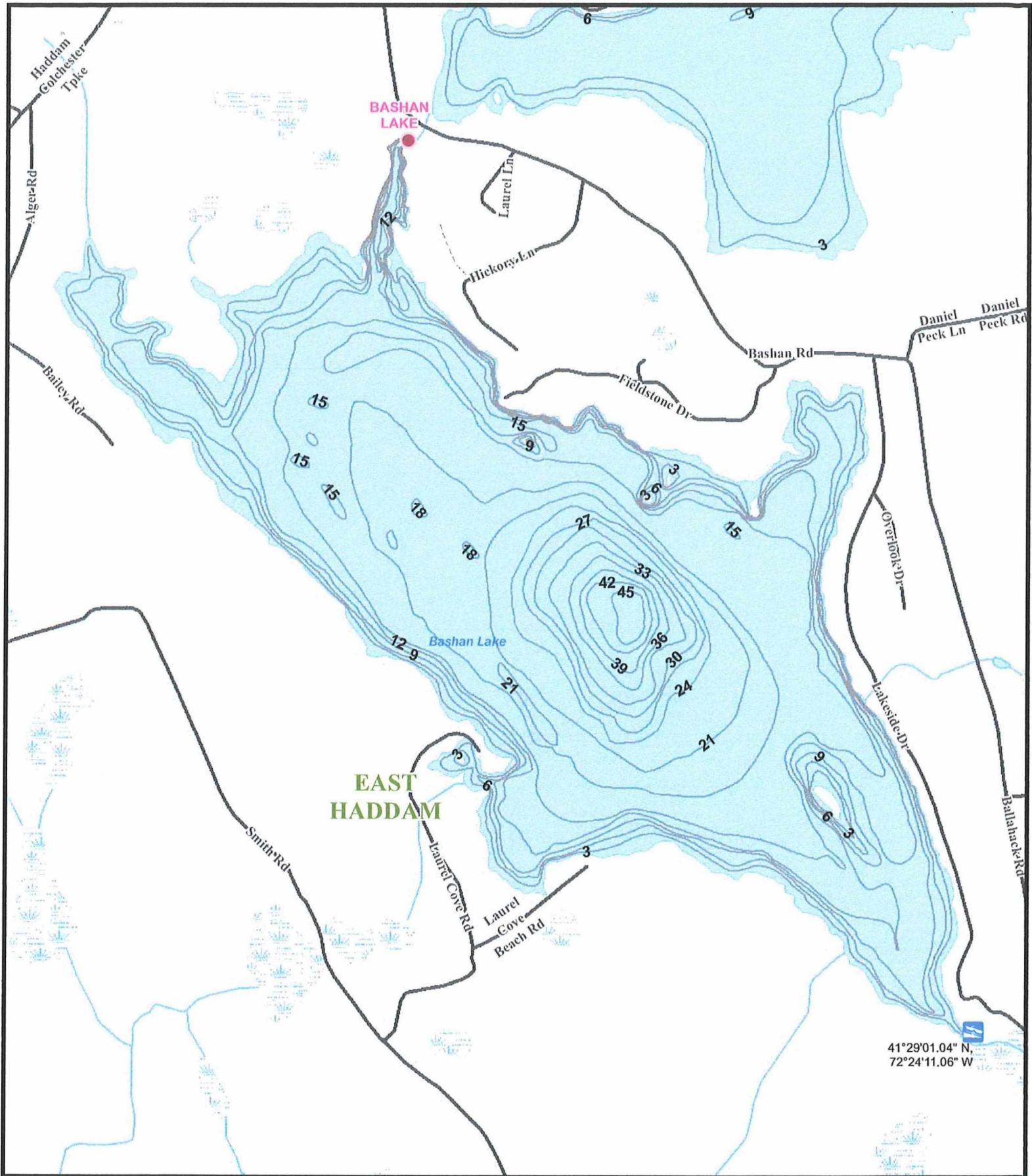
We support the ban and urge the Selectmen to place this on the meeting agenda for determination by the qualified voters of East Haddam as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Maryellen DiLuzio, President
Sunset Acres of Bashan Lake, Inc.
122 Lakeside Dr. ,East Haddam, Ct.



Bashan Lake

East Haddam, CT



Connecticut Department of
Energy &
Environmental Protection

This map shows lake depth. It is intended for general informational purposes only. Lake bathymetry contour lines may not align well with other features on the map. Please refer to the Boating or Angler's Guide for current boating regulations. Map date September 2011.

Lake acreage: 272.02

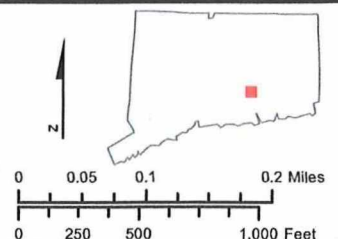
— Lake depth (ft)

- - - Trail

● Dam

 DEEP car top/carry-in launch

 DEEP trailered launch



Selectman,

I wanted to send you an email in support of the Wake Surfing Ordinance at Bashan Lake.

As long time Bashan Lake summer residents and cottage owner, our family is in support of the Wake Surfing Ordinance. We have watched the damage done to the lake shore, docks, boats and other personal property by waves produced by unchecked boaters, and we would like to see it stopped. The long term damage being done to the lake bottom by these waves has also caused additional invasive weed species to grow and thrive in the lake. The BLA and the State of CT have spent substantial amounts of money to deal with the weed problem and for the long term health of the lake we need to limit activities that threaten its future.

I understand people want to enjoy the lake, but so do the rest of us, and I want to see my children and grandchildren enjoy the lake for many years to come.

Please help us to protect the lake by passing the Wake Surfing Ordinance.

Thanks for your support

Matt Cronin and the Cronin Family
860-904-0490
Wildwood

Irene.haines@easthaddam.org
erik.dill@easthaddam.org
tanya.bourgoin@easthaddam.org
cc: mybashanlake@gmail.com

Re: Support in favor of an Ordinance Banning Wake Surf Boats on Bashan Lake

June 14, 2025

Greetings East Haddam Select Board Irene Haines, Erik Dill, and Tanya Bourgoin,

My name is Sharon Trombley and I live at 44 Laurel Cove Road, East Haddam, CT. I have been a summer resident of Bashan Lake my entire life and for the past 6 years, a full time resident. I am writing in support of implementing a town ordinance banning wake surf boats on the waters of Bashan Lake.

I have experienced the negative impacts these boats have on the health and safety of our lake ecosystem, shoreline properties, and the innocent people trying to enjoy the beauty of our lake. Although I now live in Laurel Cove which is more protected than the main lake itself, the large and powerful waves from these boats have crashed over our raft, the back of our docked boats, and our stone wall. My family owns a cottage in Wildwood and the large waves from these boats have caused damage to our stone wall and caused my elderly neighbor to get knocked down while she was simply trying to enjoy wading in the water on a beautiful day. My sister's 14 foot Boston Whaler has been knocked around on her dock and broke loose. We know when we are trying to enjoy the lake on our pontoon boat and see the wake surf boats out, we need to secure anything on the boat including ourselves. We also know when these boats are on the lake we should not risk taking a paddleboard or kayak out on the lake for fear of being knocked over.

Last year, we had an abundant amount of weeds float up to our shoreline, something I not seen ever before. It was almost a daily activity to pull these weeds out of the lake. Also, the lake water was brown especially after a weekend of several surf boats on our lake. After seeing several very disturbing videos about how these boats can score the bottom of the lake it started to make sense to me how and where these "newer" weeds and brown water were coming. If you have not seen these videos I urge you to do so. They are shocking and eye opening.

The BLA and private citizens have spent thousands of dollars over the years in attempt to control the invasive weeds in Bashan Lake and keep it the pristine lake we all know and love. The wake surf boats are disrupting that attempt by stirring up the bottom of the lake anywhere the depth is less than 25 feet which is a large percentage of the lake as Bashan Lake's average depth is only 15.5 feet. Bashan Lake is too small and too shallow of a lake to support these boats.

I urge you, as our trusted Select Board, to protect Bashan Lake by banning wake surf boats before it is too late.

Thank you,

Sharon Trombley

Stephanie Denya
12 Fieldstones Drive
East Haddam, CT 06423
October 21, 2025

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to DEEP's invitation to provide written comments regarding the scope of Wake Boat & Wake surf Study. I have also attached several letters from members of the Bashan Lake Association that were submitted to our Selectman with regards to a request for an ordinance on wake surfing. It is important to note that there was a town vote for an ordinance (which your office assisted in creating) and it was an overwhelming response with an outcome of 202 votes for the ban and 42 who opposed the ban. We are currently in the 60-day waiting period for DEEP to approve our ordinance.

With the prompts that you have provided, I would like to begin by stating that Bashan Lake is a small 273 acres in the south-central part of CT. All of the surrounding land is privately owned and public access for fishing and recreational boating activities is through the state-owned boat launch. Bashan is most utilized by the public for fishing, paddle boarding, water skiing, jet skiing and kayaking. The majority of the privately owned homes on the lake are those individuals that have resided here with their families, either year-round or seasonal, for 60-plus years. Therefore, there is a rich knowledge of history and dedication to maintaining this pristine lake that they call home. In fact, the homeowners have invested thousands of their dollars into weed control. Unfortunately, four years ago, a family moved onto the lake with their wake board boat. The wake board boat was designed to create large, high-energy waves. Tanks at the back of these boats take on thousands of pounds of water to increase their weight, which causes them to ride bow up and stern down to throw huge waves. These boats deploy fins to maximize height and shape and coupled with powerful motors pointing their propeller at a downward angle produce high-energy wakes and prop wash. This allows for people to surf untethered behind the boat. These waves are larger and more powerful than those created by other watercraft of similar size and shape.

Environmental Impact

Just one pass of a wake boat can be devastating to the ecosystem; multiple passes in the same area cause long lasting damage to shorelines, water quality and lake bottoms. They also erode the,

waterfowl nesting and damage fish spawning areas. The propeller, angled downwards and under the boat, directs a propulsion of prop wash scouring the lakebed **26 feet deep**. This scouring of the lakebed causes algae blooms, murky waters, imperils aquatic plants, insects, fish, and microscopic life. The increased turbidity causes an increase in water temperature making the ecosystem less hospitable for native flora and fauna. In addition, native plants are uprooted and fish nests are destroyed.

Below is a diagram of the impact wake surfing has on lakes.



A major environmental impact due to wake surfing and wake boats is the spreading of invasive weeds. Wake boats use lake water as ballast. It must be pumped out each time the boat leaves; however, several gallons are always retained in the tank. That is due to the design of the ballast compartments and the fact that they are difficult to clean. Thus, the ballast water mixes with the water of the previous bodies of water used to wake board. This causes the potential to spread aquatic invasive species, which can survive for several days in just a few drops of water inside a ballast tank. It is important to note that the Bashan Lake Association has employed a boat monitor to assess the outside of all boats, motors and props entering the water (and with great success); however, they cannot see inside the ballast. Unfortunately, last year we received the news that

Bashan Lake has been added to the growing list of lakes that now have the highly invasive weed hydrilla, which was more than likely, brought in by a ballast tank.

Safety Hazards

Over the last two years, the President of the Bashan Lake Association has fielded hundreds of phone calls and complaints regarding issues that have occurred because of the wake boats and the waves they create. The complaints are from people attempting to swim long distance, paddle boarders who get knocked off their board as if they are suddenly in the ocean, canoers who have capsized or taken on gallons of water, kayakers and sail boaters swamped by the waves, fisherman attempting to fish, people swamped resting/sitting while mooring their boats, swim rafts and docks have been damaged by the waves, walls along the shoreline have been damaged, beaches have eroded, and most importantly, small children and several elderly have been knocked over sustaining minor injuries.

Existing Studies

There are several studies that we have read. Some for and others against wake boarding; however, it is important to see who is actually conducting the study and do those that are actually doing the study have a vested interest in the outcome (mostly financial interest like the boat industry).

Therefore, when Lake Waramaug and the towns of Kent, Washington, and Warren decided to hire an independent firm and with no vested interest, it was a valid study to review. Lake Waramaug is 656 acres with a last count of 45 wake enhancement surf boats (Bashan Lake is only **273 acres**).

Their Wave impact study of 2025 shows clear disturbances from the propellor down wash at a depth of 26 feet below. Other studies in New Hampshire have showed disturbances at almost 40 feet below. Due to studies already conducted in other states, several lakes in Alabama, California, Indiana, Illinois, New Hampshire, Oregon, Virginia, and South Carolina have developed ordinances prohibiting wake board operation. Several other states are currently in the process, **all to preserve the ecosystem, fisheries, and safety of the lakes and the people who utilize them.**

Connecticut needs to be proactive. Why? To protect the ecosystem, the fisheries, those that swim and enjoy water activities, lake resident's docks, walls, and property, and to prevent the spread of invasive weeds.

How Will It Be Enforced?

As someone that worked for a municipality and on a task force that developed the smoking ordinance to ban smoking in designated public places, that question was also asked. It was a simple response and it has worked for several years now; the people enforce it. Below I have our

October 21, 2025

Page 4

enforcement form that we will be utilizing on Bashan, although I do not foresee this as being needed often because once people are educated and made aware of the ordinance, just like the smoking ordinance, people will abide by the ordinance. If an industry as big as tobacco can have an ordinance in an effort to protect the environment and the people in it, I feel strongly that DEEP can secure an ordinance that will protect the aquatic environment and the people in it.

*Report illegal activity and boating violations observed on
Bashan Lake by collecting the following data.*

*Encon/DEEP Law Enforcement at
860-424-3333 / deep.enconpolice@ct.gov
and/or*

East Haddam Police 860-873-5014 / police@easthaddam.org

Date: _____

Time: _____

Boat and Model _____

Color of Boat _____

Registration Numbers _____

Description of Operator _____
(clothing and distinguishing features)

**Photographs or videos are helpful to authorities*

Nature of violation/suspicious activity: _____

cc: mybashanlake@gmail.com and/or contact BLA board member

Thank you for you time and consideration on this matter,

Sincerely,


Stephanie Denya

860-539-8819

June 11, 2025

Dear Town of East Haddam Selectman and Bashan Lake Association,

Irene.haines@easthaddam.org

erik.dill@easthaddam.org

tanya.bourgoin@easthaddam.org

mybashanlake@gmail.com

admin@easthaddam.org

Wdenya@att.net

Re: Support Ordinance Banning **Wake Boats** on Bashan Lake, East Haddam, CT

My name is Stuart Magoveny, and I live at 39 Laurel Cove Road, East Haddam, CT. I am in support of an ordinance banning Wake Boats on Bashan Lake due to the reasons I discuss below.

I am a homeowner on Bashan Lake and enjoy boating and fishing on Bashan Lake. Wake boats can have a negative impact on Bashan Lake's ecosystem which I am very concerned about. From watching videos and doing some online research, wake boats disturb lake bottoms by stirring up sediment and reducing the water's clarity. Bashan Lake prides itself as being one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in CT and wake boats will ruin this if these types of boats are not banned from Bashan Lake.

The wake boats disrupt aquatic plants, fish nests and other bottom habitats. Wake boats uproot aquatic plants which are vital for fish habitat and the overall health of the lake. The wake boats powerful propeller thrust water so hard to the bottom which can harm fish and insects. These types of boats also spread aquatic invasive species by transporting them in their ballast tanks. Bashan Lake is working hard to prevent invasive species and by allowing wake boats is counterproductive to its efforts in doing so.

The large wake that wake boats create can also create safety issues to swimmers, other boaters like kayakers and sail boaters and people floating on tubes relaxing in the lake.

These large wakes also erode our shoreline and can damage docks and moored boats. The energy created by wake boats is stronger than wind-driven waves particular in smaller lakes such as Bashan Lake. These boats do not belong on smaller lakes as they are very destructive to smaller lakes and costly to homeowners in having to repair the damage they can cause.

Now's the time to act, before it's too late, to preserve the beauty of Bashan Lake, and all its inhabitants. I am all in favor of banning wake boats from Bashan Lake.

Stuart Magoveny / smagoveny@comcast.net

Dear Board of Selectmen:

I'd appreciate it if you would review the following links prior to your next meeting on July 16, 2025 when you'll be voting on whether to send a proposed Wake Surfing Ordinance for Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir to a Town wide vote.

The first link is to a study commissioned by the Water Sports Industry Association. The information in this report is much like what Nancy Bordick presented at the Town meeting on June 25th. Specifically the 26 inch wake height and the wind waves. It references waves dissipating to less than exceptional in 200 feet. I don't expect you to review this report in detail, but please note that It was commissioned in **2015**. It is **old** data.

[Microsoft Word - WSIA draft report Rev II.docx](#)

The attached video shows the types of waves that can be made with today's boats. It's all about creating bigger and better waves for wake surfing. This is **current** information.

[Bing Videos](#)

This link shows a picture of the type of wave that can be created. Again **current** info.

[Gigawave - A revolutionary machine built to elevate the watersports industry and create the worlds largest endless wakesurf wave](#)

The attached video shows the damage done to a lakebed by wake surfing.

<https://youtu.be/2OEHn0Htj8A>

Without an ordinance banning wake surfing on our lakes, these boats can't be stopped from coming in at the State Boat Launches and there'll be nothing to stop new residents from purchasing wake surf boats. The increase in the number of these boats on the lake will be like the proliferation of jet skiis in the past 30 years. Even though Bashan Lake has a small area in the very center of the lake that could accommodate wake surfing, no one is going to be able to police boats coming onto the lake to ensure they stay in that one small area and boats are not going to wait in line to take their turn surfing down the center line.

This topic has already been thoroughly researched. The attachment entitled Wake Boats Source Info, is the list of articles that were researched and compiled into Stephanie Denya's presentation on June 25th. The damage that can be caused to the lake and personal property from this activity and the safety concerns are very real.

You all listened to the reports from residents who've experienced problems caused by the existing wake surf boats on Bashan Lake. I hope you vote to send this ordinance to a Town wide vote for the safety of all and not just the pleasure of a few.

Respectfully,

Sue Deguzis

163 Lakeside Dr.

East Haddam, CT

Sources of Information:

1. Wake Boats in The Land of 10,000 Lakes, By the Wake Boat Subcommittee of the Waters and Wetlands Stewards, North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, March 31, 2023 (pages 1.1-1.4)
2. Are bans of wakesurfing coming, Norm Schultz, May 22, 2018 (pages 2.1-2.2)
3. New wake surfing rules and other legislative updates, Delegate Kathy Byron, Jan 28, 2021 (pages 3.1-3.3)
4. Wake (Ballast) Boats, NHLakes.org (pages 4.1-4.2)
5. The Killer Bees Appear to be Winning- An Update on Wake Boats, Clifford H. Bloom, Esq., Oct 9, 2017 (pages 5.1-5.5)
6. Wake Boats—A threat to our lakes, Last Wilderness Alliance Presque Isle Wisconsin, Aug 5 (pages 6.1-6.4)
7. Wisconsin residents are asking for action on the problems caused by wake boats, Paul A. Smith, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Dec. 18, 2022 (pages 7.1-7.3)
8. STATE COMMISSION AGREES ON WAKE BOAT SAFETY, DISAGREES ON REGULATION, David Smith, Ossipee Lake Alliance, July 14, 2020 (pages 8.1-8.2)
9. Will new study on wakesurfing cause the sport to wipeout on some Minnesota Lakes?, Walker Orenstein, staff writer for MINNPOST, 2020 (pages 9.1-9.9)
10. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, Bill limiting use of wake boats (pages 10.1-10.2)
11. Wake Boat Concerns: A National View (pages 11.1-11.2)
 - 11A. Vermont DEC Releases Draft Rule on Wake Boat Regulation (pages 11A.1-11A.2)
 - 11B. Maps of Wake Sport Zones based on Proposed Rule Conditions (page 11B.1)
 - 11C. From the Vermont Digger February 2, 2004
12. Bill Text: NH HB1390/2024/Regular Session/Introduced (pages 12.1-12.2)

I'm writing in support of banning wake surfing on Bashan Lake.

Our lake is too small from a depth perspective and from an acreage perspective to allow wake surfing.

Wake boats are designed with the propeller angled downward under the boat, that directs a jet of prop wash scouring the lakebed 20' deep. My research has shown that this can result in a variety of ecological problems: reintroducing phosphorus and other nutrients that have settled in the lakebed into the water column promoting algae blooms or cyanobacteria blooms, destroying native aquatic plants and fish spawning areas, insects, and microscopic life. It can also impact the thermocline in the lake.

From what I've read, it's recommended that these boats operate in greater than 20 feet of water, but most of Bashan Lake is less than 20 feet deep. Wake boats don't have depth finders, so the operator doesn't know how to stay in water that's deeper than 20 feet.

The significantly larger wakes from these boats can damage beaches, shorelines, and docks because their waves slam into shorelines and walls with much greater force and velocity than a normal ski boat. The size of the wakes can endanger swimmers, paddlers, kayakers, fisherman, and those in small boats and sail boats.

A study out of the University of Minnesota found that distances greater than 500 feet from shore are needed for the waves generated by a wakesurf boat to dissipate like those of a ski boat before hitting the shore. A more recent study by the University of Quebec shows that wake boats need to operate at least 1000 feet from shore to prevent erosion of shorelines. The size and depth of Bashan Lake doesn't provide an area both over 20 feet deep and 500 feet from shore that's large enough to support wake surfing. These boats are becoming more popular and designers are creating boats that produce even larger wakes. With a State Boat launch on the lake more and more of these boats are going to show up. We must act now to protect Bashan Lake, owners' property on the lake, and the safety of all using the lake.

As a member of the BLA Board of Directors for over 10 years, I've never heard people complain about waves from ski boats or boats pulling tubes, but there have been multiple complaints about the waves generated by surf boats.

Sincerely,
Sue Deguzis
163 Lakeside Dr.
East Haddam, CT 06473

Dear Selectmen,

I am a member of the Sunset Acres Association, and I support the enactment of the wake surf ordinance prohibiting the creation of surfing waves. Our association also supports prohibiting any vessel from taking on water ballast to submerge the stern. I have read about the damage these boats cause to the environment of the lake.

I support this ban and urge you to place this on the meeting agenda for determination by the qualified voters of East Haddam as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Susan Sabo-BengTson

Secretary Sunset Acres Association

19 Lakeside Drive

East Haddam,CT

06423

Dear Ms.Haines,

I strongly encourage you to consider the ban on wake surfing on Bashan Lake. I am very concerned about the effects that it has on the lake. The large waves that are produced have a very negative effects on the lakes shoreline and aquatic ecosystem. I am very concerned about the safety of my little grandkids. These large waves make it difficult for them to swim and have knocked them over.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Novak
75 Petticoat Lane
East Haddam, CT 06423



To: DEEP Boating Division
From: Alicea Charamut, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Date: October 22, 2025
Subject: Comments on the Scope of the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the scope of the *Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study*. We are a statewide nonprofit organization that works to protect and enhance the state's rivers, lakes, and watersheds for the benefit of the environment and the public.

We commend DEEP for initiating this study to examine the environmental, safety, and recreational impacts associated with motorized boats operating in wake surfing mode in Connecticut. This is a timely and important effort, as communities across the state are facing increasing challenges of protecting freshwater ecosystems as well as ensuring that our waters can be enjoyed by all.

Respect for Local Control and the Need for Minimum Standards

The Lake Waramaug process demonstrated both the importance and the difficulty of addressing impacts of motorized boats in wake surf mode at the local level. Communities like Lake Waramaug should be applauded for the years of work they devoted to secure local protections. However, this time and resources could otherwise have been directed to lake management and restoration instead of fighting moneyed and well-connected opposition.

DEEP should continue to recognize and support municipalities in managing wake activity through ordinances and site-specific controls. However, every lake community should not have to fight the same long and expensive battle to protect their waters. Establishing minimum statewide protective standards would create a fair and consistent foundation for all Connecticut lakes and rivers. To this end, DEEP should consider recommending that there be no wake surfing except in waters: (i) more than 1000-foot from shore, (ii) no less than 30-foot depth, and (iii) in areas meeting (i) and (ii) and that are at least 100 contiguous acres with a regular shape and at least a 250-foot operational width, and, (iv) importantly, with the ability for local communities to adopt stronger measures.

Environmental and Water Quality Impacts

Wake boats are ballast-heavy vessels designed to generate large, surfable waves at low speeds. These waves are far greater in height and energy than typical boating wakes, and when operated in shallow or confined waters, they can cause measurable shoreline erosion, sediment resuspension, and damage to aquatic vegetation and habitat.

Such impacts are not hypothetical; they have been documented by independent scientists in multiple states. These disturbances can degrade water quality, reduce habitat for fish and wildlife, and contribute to nutrient loading that fuels harmful algal blooms.

Watershed-based plans can cost tens of thousands of dollars to prepare and require significant local capacity to develop and implement. Lake and watershed associations spend years leveraging scarce resources to be a productive partner in meeting DEEP's water quality goals. For example, Rivers Alliance has been working closely with the Bantam Lake Protective Association, which has invested decades in addressing persistent algal blooms based on recommendations from the watershed based plan.

If DEEP does not acknowledge and address the well-documented impairments that wake surfing can exacerbate, it will undermine the progress made by these local efforts and by DEEP's own Environmental Quality programs.

We also urge that the Environmental Quality side of the agency be fully involved in reviewing and interpreting the study findings.

Invasive Species and State Support Limitations

The same is true for the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS). Lake associations rely heavily on grants funded by the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) boat stamp program and other limited funding sources to manage these threats. These grants cannot cover the escalating cost of addressing the Connecticut River strain of Hydrilla, and state support for rapid response is minimal.

Wake boats, which use internal ballast systems that are difficult to clean, impossible to fully drain and, as a practical matter, cannot be inspected, pose an aggravated and heightened risk of spreading aquatic invasives between water bodies. DEEP must account for its limited support for local efforts and lack of robust inspection programs.

Rivers Alliance strongly recommends that DEEP consult with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), which serves as the state's leading research agency on aquatic invasive species. We note that Vermont has a 'home lake' rule which requires certification that wake boat owners will not move boats from lake to lake

without undertaking a thorough inspection and decontamination process. Local communities concerned about the overwhelming cost of invasive contamination containment would surely welcome guidance about how to inspect and decontaminate ballast systems, and welcome a “home lake” rule.

Economic Impact and Tourism

The ecological health of our lakes, rivers and ponds, including water quality, is fundamental to sustaining recreation, tourism, and property values. Degraded water quality, eroded shorelines, and unsafe conditions threaten far greater economic harm than limiting one narrow boating activity.

Public Access and Environmental Justice

We appreciate DEEP’s stated commitment to balancing recreational access with environmental protection. However, DEEP’s response approving the Lake Waramaug ordinance appears to use access for motorized vessels as a litmus test for “robust public access.” This unintentionally overlooks the many more residents who access and enjoy Connecticut’s waters through non-motorized means such as kayakers, canoers, paddle boarders, swimmers, and families who visit public beaches.

Connecticut is fortunate to have public access to many waterbodies beyond motorized launches. This broader and more inclusive picture of access should be reflected in DEEP’s analysis.

Moreover, public access should be viewed through an Environmental Justice lens. Town and public beaches as well as car-top launches provide vital, affordable access to cooling and recreation, particularly for families and individuals who do not own motorized boats. Wake impacts on these areas must receive equal consideration within what is considered “robust public access.”

Public Trust in Water and DEEP’s Role

The Connecticut Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) establishes that the state’s air, water, and other natural resources are held in *public trust* for the benefit of all residents. DEEP, as the primary trustee, has a duty to protect these waters from impairment and for all legitimate public uses.

As wake surfing expands on Connecticut’s inland waters, DEEP’s leadership is critical to ensuring that public trust obligations are met through science-based, equitable, and enforceable policy.

Recommendations

Rivers Alliance respectfully recommends that DEEP:

1. Establishing minimum statewide protective standards of 1,000-foot from shore, 30-foot minimum depth, and a 100 acre, zone with at least a 250-foot operational width, with the ability for local communities to adopt stronger measures
2. Establish clear and effective guidelines to enable communities to prevent motorboats with enhanced wake systems from spreading invasive weeds
3. Implement a “one lake” rule
4. Fully evaluate environmental and safety impacts using independent, peer-reviewed research and input from Environmental Quality division of DEEP.
5. Incorporate perspectives from non-motorized users and Environmental Justice communities into the study’s framework for public access.
6. Engage CAES and local watershed and lake associations as technical partners in the analysis of invasive species risks.
7. Support municipalities through clear guidance and resources for local implementation.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and for the opportunity to contribute to the scope of the *Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study*. Rivers Alliance stands ready to assist DEEP and local partners in identifying practical, science-based solutions that protect both recreation and the long-term health of Connecticut’s waters.

References for Consideration

Newer Articles

- A Field Study of Recreational Powerboat Hydrodynamics and their Impacts on the Water Column and Lakebed: <https://conservancy.umn.edu/items/6a47c506-6be5-4c8a-9a96-dfea38f23b2f>
 - Has a nice digital summary as well
- The Effects of Wake Boats on Lake Health: A literature Review: https://wigreenfire.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/WakeBoatsLakeEcosystemHealth_WGF-May2024_Final.pdf

Helpful YouTube videos

- [Healthy Waters Initiative Phase 2 Webinar 8. 26. 2025](#)
- [Lake "aging" and the role of enhanced wake](#)

Organized by state or country

- Connecticut
 - [Terra Vigilis Lake Waramaug Wave Impact Study Final Report](#)
 - [Terra Vigilis Lake Waramaug Shallow Water Environment Wave Impact Study Final Report](#)
 - [Short Video on Two TVES Reports Above](#)
 - [Lake Waramaug User Survey \(From Warren, Washington and Kent\)](#)
- Wisconsin
 - [Terra Vigilis North Lake Management District study](#)
 - Summary of Wake Boat Impact Studies, W. Scott Brown
- Chesapeake Bay
 - [Defining boat wake impacts on shoreline stability toward management and policy solutions](#)
 - [Review of boat wake wave impacts on shoreline erosion and potential solutions for the Chesapeake Bay](#)
- Michigan
 - [Department of Natural Resources, Wake Boats](#): concerns and recommendations related to natural resource management in Michigan Waters, September 2022
- Minnesota
 - [Minnesota Study of Wake Boat Waves](#)
 - [Own Your Wake: Example of a Public Safety Campaign](#)
- New Hampshire
 - [Final Report of the State Wake Boat Commission to Study Wake Boats](#)
 - [Project Evaluation of the Impact of Waves Created by Wake Boats on the Shores of the Lakes Memphremagog and Lovering Wakeboat: Having Fun while Making the Right Choices](#)
- Vermont
 - [Wakeboating and Wakesports in Vermont](#)
- Other

- [A comparison of boat cleaning systems: invasive species removal, boater outreach and engagement, and cost](#)
- [List of regulations across the country:](#)
- [Compilation of “Cotty Fay” Study Critiques](#)

Resources Compiled by Protect Lake Waramaug

[Protect Lake Waramaug Resources Page](#)

Pro-Wake Surfing Studies and Advocacy

- [National Marine Manufacturer’s wake surfing advocacy page](#)
- [The “Cotty Fay” Paper](#)

Dear Town of East Haddam and BLA

My name is Mike Widger and our family has had a cottage/house on Bashan Lake since 1961. We have enjoyed all forms of water sports on Bashan Lake. Wake surfing is the only water sport that has been proven to damage the eco system through shoreline erosion, sediment disturbance, and potential for spreading aquatic invasive species. I am hoping this ordinance will prolong and enhance the health of our beautiful lake. These boats can remain but lets stop doing damage to the eco system, stone walls, docks, rafts, and our ability to take a slow cruise without it feeling like we are on the Connecticut River.

Thank you for reading my family's letter and we are hoping to get this ordinance passed.

Sincerely,

Widger family
68 Laurel Cove Rd
East Haddam, CT 06423

June 18th, 2025

East Haddam Board of Selectmen

Town Office Building

1 Plains Road

East Haddam, CT 06423

Dear Selectmen,

I am writing to express my strong support for the adoption of a local ordinance that prohibits wake surfing and the creation of surfing waves on Bashan Lake and the Moodus Reservoir. As a concerned resident who values the health and longevity of our natural resources, I believe such an ordinance is both necessary and urgent for the protection of these beloved bodies of water.

Bashan Lake is a cherished recreational and ecological resource in East Haddam. However, it is increasingly vulnerable to environmental pressures, particularly from wake-enhanced boating activities. Wake surfing, which involves the use of specially weighted boats to generate large waves, poses a significant threat to the health of our lake and the surrounding community.

Invasive aquatic plants such as hydrilla have already been identified in Bashan Lake, as confirmed by a 2024 plant survey. Although the initial findings were managed through hand-pulling, the threat remains real and persistent. Wake surf boats, which use internal ballast systems, are known to transfer invasive species from one water body to another and can contribute to their spread within a lake by stirring up bottom sediments where these plants can take root.

Further, surf-mode wakes are dramatically more powerful than those from standard boats. Studies show that these waves can reach heights up to four times larger and penetrate the water column as deep as 26 feet. On a relatively small lake like Bashan, this causes excessive shoreline erosion, disturbs fish habitats, and reintroduces nutrients into the water column—fueling harmful algal blooms. These blooms degrade water quality, pose health risks to swimmers and pets, and reduce the lake's recreational value.

The economic implications of these environmental impacts are equally concerning. Lakes like Bashan, Moodus Reservoir, and Lake Hayward contribute over \$1.2 million annually to East Haddam's tax base. Studies have shown that degraded lake quality can reduce lakeside property values by as much as 36–43%, translating into significant losses for our local economy and municipal budget.

Communities in other states such as Minnesota, Vermont, South Carolina, and Oregon have already implemented restrictions on wake surfing to safeguard their lakes. East Haddam has the opportunity to show the same leadership by acting now to prevent irreversible damage to Bashan Lake and the Moodus Reservoir.

I respectfully urge the Board to take this issue seriously and move forward with a local ordinance that prioritizes the health of our lake, the safety of its users, and the economic vitality of our town. Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to protecting East Haddam's natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zac Jezek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zac" and last name "Jezek" clearly distinguishable.

Zac Jezek

132 Lakeside Drive

East Haddam, CT 06423

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