



Public Notice

Draft Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
March 3, 2026

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) is seeking public input on its [Draft Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study](#), which examines wakesurfing on Connecticut's inland waterbodies and explores options for managing this growing recreational activity in a way that balances environmental protection, public safety, and equitable access to outdoor recreation.

DEEP would like to thank the hundreds of individuals, organizations, municipalities, businesses, and advocacy groups who submitted feedback during the initial comment round. The volume, thoughtfulness, and diversity of [public comments](#) received reflect how important Connecticut's waterbodies are to residents and visitors alike. The perspectives shared helped shape the scope, analysis, and recommendations included in this draft study.

In DEEP's [initial public notice](#) we identified the following three goals for the study which are included in the draft:

1. Assess the economic, environmental, recreational, navigational, and public health and safety factors relevant to wake boat operation on Connecticut's waterbodies;
2. Provide information to state and local waterway managers about key issues and opportunities for balanced, site-specific approaches to accommodating or addressing wakesurfing; and
3. Provide recommendations for consideration by policymakers at the state and local level.

The Draft Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study was informed by the following:

- [Public comments](#) submitted in response to DEEP's [October 2025 Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment](#);
- Scientific research and technical studies related to wake boats and wakesurfing;
- Management approaches used by other states; and
- Input from law enforcement, boating safety professionals, and fisheries and wildlife biologists.

The draft observes several management approaches that have been utilized in other jurisdictions to manage wakesurfing, including distance-from-shore restrictions, water depth considerations, and waterbody size thresholds.

Request for Public Input

DEEP is seeking feedback on the Draft Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study to help improve the quality, completeness, and usefulness of the final report. DEEP welcomes public input on the following questions:

- Are there any additional scientific studies, technical reports, or data sources that DEEP should review before finalizing this study? (See Appendix 2 for list of studies consulted.)
- Are there additional examples of management approaches from other states that DEEP should include or evaluate?
- Are there topics or impacts related to wakesurfing that are not addressed in the draft?

How to Submit Comments

Written comments should be submitted by email to DEEP.Boating@ct.gov with “Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study” in the subject line and must be received on or before **5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2026**. All materials submitted by stakeholders will be posted on the DEEP website. Any questions may be directed via email to DEEP.Boating@ct.gov.

Schedule and Next Steps

DEEP anticipates that the findings of this report may be informative to communities considering ordinances on wakesurfing and could help inform state-level policy, if desired by the Connecticut General Assembly. DEEP will consider all comments submitted and will seek to issue a final version of the Wake Boat and Wakesurf Study in mid-2026.

DEEP appreciates the time, expertise, and perspectives shared throughout this process and thanks the public for its continued engagement in protecting Connecticut’s waterways while supporting responsible and enjoyable outdoor recreation.