

Water skiing doesn't destroy pristine lakes, but...

WAKESURFING? That's a whole new story!

The bow comes up and the stern goes down to increase the wake, so it's hard to see ahead.

3 to 4 foot high wakes are created so people can wakesurf, without a rope, like surfing in the ocean.

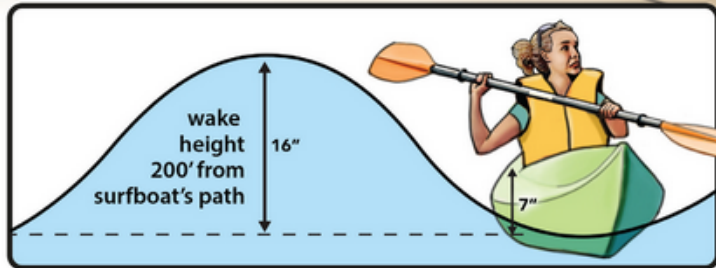
Algae blooms are fueled by nutrients freed from disturbed sediment. Some can kill fish and pets, and make people sick.

Fishermen have been knocked over, pontooners drenched, and small craft capsized by the massive wakes.

If fishermen, pleasure boaters, paddlers, and others can't enjoy our lakes, then tourism, property values and business income will plummet.

Loon nests are just inches above water in calm areas. Big wakes can destroy eggs.

Is the boating industry's 200 feet from shore rule enough?



16" = Height of wake 200' from wakesurf boat's path (per industry)

7" = Typical kayak freeboard

10" = Typical canoe freeboard

12" = Typical small fishing boat freeboard

9" = Height of waves, 25 mph wind, 30 minutes, 1 mile wide lake

Sediment is stirred up and plants are damaged 20 feet deep by the powerful motor and deep downward angled propeller.

Little fish live among the plants. Fewer plants means fewer little fish for big game fish to eat.

Loons, otter and many fish can't see prey in murky water.

Ballast tanks don't drain completely and can bring invasives from other lakes.

Invasive plants spread easily in damaged areas.

Spiny waterfleas can upset the entire ecosystem, resulting in fewer game fish and murky water.

As the wake enters shallow water, plants are damaged, sediment is churned, and fish eggs can be destroyed.

When the big wake crashes on shore it can cause erosion and damage docks and moored boats.

How do they make those huge wakes?

- Add ballast water, up to 5000 pounds (600 gallons)
- Operate at speeds that bring the bow up and stern down
- Use wake enhancing fins
- The wake is 6 to 12 times more powerful than ski boat wakes!

For More Information See: LastWildernessAlliance.org

Report dangerous boating at DNR's anonymous 24/7 hotline: **1-800-TIP-WDNR**