



# Wake Boat Update

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Presented for the Lakes Region Planning Commission  
September 27, 2021





# Presentation Agenda



- Introductions
- Wake Boat Study Commission
  - Who participated
  - What was studied
  - Final results
- Legislation related to wake boats in 2021
- Concerns related to wake boats
- Research being conducted



# Wake Boat Study Commission Participants



## Name

Rep. Suzanne Smith (Chair)

Pam Price (Clerk)

Rep. Michael Gunski

Sen. Ruth Ward

Captain Tim Dunleavy

Tom O'Brien (Kelly Buchanan)

Scott Behner

David Mankus

Shane Carey

David Niels (Sarah Kirn)

John Whalley

Peter MacCallum

Chris Bischoff

Winston Sims

Maggie Ford

## Organization/Representing

NH House of Representatives

Wake boat recreational community

NH House of Representatives

NH Senate

Marine Patrol Unit

NH LAKES

USA Water Ski and Wake Sports NH

NH Campground Owners Association

Wake boat recreational community

Department of Environmental Services

NH Marine Trades Association

Local lake association

Water Sports Industry Association

Shorefront property owner

- lake less than 1,000 acres

Shorefront property owner

- lake greater than 1,000 acres



## What did the Commission do?



The commission was charged with gathering the appropriate data and information on the positive and negative uses of wake boats, specifically regarding:

- The spread of aquatic invasive species
- The relationship to shoreline erosion and impacts to private property
- The economic impact of recreational boating and the popularity of water sport among families in New Hampshire
- The safety of swimmers and other boaters





## What did the Commission decide?



The major challenge the Wake Boat Study Commission discussed is balancing competing uses of NH's waters which are held in trust for the reasonable use and enjoyment of the public.



## Bills Related to Wake Boats in 2021



HB 115 relative to wake surfing



HB 229 defining wake boat



## Concerns Associated with Wake Boats



**Asian Clam**  
(from Asia)

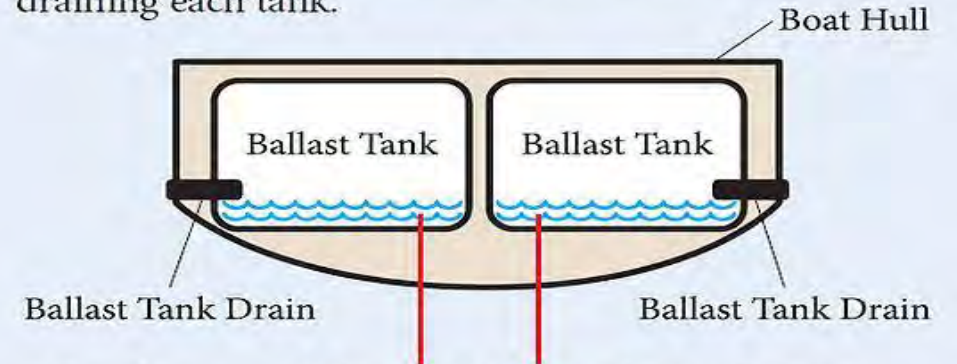


**Chinese Mystery Snail**  
(from Asia)



**Zebra Mussel**  
(from Caspian Sea in Europe)

The diagram shows the cross section of a boat with two water ballast tanks. The placement of the tank drain allows water to remain in the tank after the discharge pump has been activated. Manufacturers have reported that on average, two gallons of water remains after draining each tank.



Standing water left in the ballast tank after draining.

**This water can harbor microscopic live zebra and quagga mussel veligers.**

## Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species



## Concerns Associated with Wake Boats

WAKE SURFING  
10 mph

WAKEBOARDING  
18 mph

WATER SKIING  
32 mph



Increased turbidity and cyanobacteria blooms





## Concerns Associated with Wake Boats



Shoreline erosion and property damage



## Concerns Associated with Wake Boats



Wildlife Disturbance



Kezar Lake, Lovell, Maine





## Concerns Associated with Wake Boats



Safety and other on water uses



## Ongoing Study



The University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory is in the process of studying the height and energy of waves and depth and force of propeller wash generated by wake boats and other large watercraft to better understand and quantify their impacts on lake bottoms and shorelines.