



Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
New Boating Ordinance Survey

Recent public comments and feedback from our 2021/2022 member survey indicate that large, enhanced wakes created by watercraft are a concern for public safety, property damage, and shoreline erosion.

Input from area constituents is required when new or changed ordinances are being considered. This survey is your opportunity to provide input on potential watercraft ordinance rules.

Today, Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities state the following.

Motorboats may not be operated at faster than “slow, no wake speed” within:

- 100 feet of any other vessel on any waterbody
- 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, or restricted area on any lake
- 100 feet of a swimmer unless the vessel is assisting the swimmer
- 100 feet of shore on any lake

Personal Watercraft (PWC) may not be operated at faster than “slow, no wake speed” within:

- 100 feet of any other vessel on any waterbody
- 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, or restricted area on any lake
- 200 feet of shore on any lake

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with this statement:

Today's boating ordinance above needs modification (circle one).

5 Strongly agree 4 Agree 3 Neutral 2 Disagree 1 Strongly disagree

2. Because of enhanced wakes from modern watercraft, motorboats operating at wake speed should be required to stay _____ feet away from other boats, docks, and the shoreline (circle one).

5 500 feet 4 300 feet 3 200 feet 2 No change 1 Other _____

3. Large waves from watercraft today are a concern for the following reasons (circle all that apply).

5 Public Safety 4 Property damage (to docks, other boats) 3 Shoreline erosion 2 Not a concern
1 Other _____

4 Larger distance requirements will have the effect of making some areas of Balsam Lake off-limits to operating at wake speed because of the distance from shore limitations (e.g. Little Balsam, Big Narrows). Larger distance requirements will also have the effect of pushing boat traffic to the center of the larger areas of the lake, potentially creating new safety concerns because of “crowding in the middle” (e.g. East Balsam, Main Basin of Balsam Lake, Boston Bay).

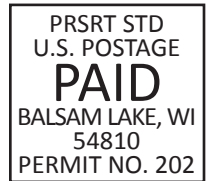
When considering the modification of boating ordinances, is it important to (circle one):

- Increase safety and minimize shore erosion • Balance safety and shore erosion
- Maintain safety and consider other options for shore erosion • Other _____

Other comments, suggestions: _____

Please return by January 31, 2022

From



**To: Large Wave Watercraft Survey
C/O Dale Ulbrich, BLPRD Commissioner
1342 185th Ave
Balsam Lake, WI 54810**

Complete and mail this printed survey or
complete the survey online at www.blprd.com.

To mail, fold along dotted lines.
After folding, tape sides and bottom edge closed.

Please return by January 31, 2023
No postage is necessary.