Comparison Table: Current vs. Proposed Vermont Use of Public Waters (UPW) Rules

Rule Area	Current Rule	Proposed Change (June 2025)
Wakesports Zone Criteria	Min. 50 acres; 500 ft from shore; 20 ft depth; some irregular shapes allowed	Min. **100 contiguous acres**; 500 ft from shore; 20 ft depth; min. **3,000 ft length**; **allowance for shape normalization**
Eligible Lakes for Wakesports	30 lakes	Reduced to 18 lakes based on new criteria
Home Lake Rule	Required declaration & decontamination	Removed. Added hot water decontamination for wake boats moving between lakes
Decontamination Proof	Operators must carry proof	Requirement removed; general compliance with 10 V.S.A. § 1454 required
Loon Protection	300-foot buffer around nesting sites during nesting season	500-foot buffer around loon nesting sites during nesting season
Safety Buffer	200 feet	Increased to 500 feet from other users
Municipal Delegation	Not clearly defined	Clarifies conditions under which a municipality may be granted delegation of UPW rules
Petition Process	Annual consolidation; seasonal public meetings	Removed consolidation; allows petitions anytime; removes seasonal constraint
Temporary Use Restrictions	Not formally addressed	Allows Secretary to impose temporary restrictions for emergencies or for other good cause
Wakesports Lake List	Listed in Appendix E	List managed publicly by the Secretary (Appendix E removed)

Wakesports zone (WSZ) size and length under proposed wakesports zone definition				
Lake	**WSZ Acres**	**Length (ft)**	**Eligible for a wakesports zone?**	**Submitted a Petition to ban wakesports**
Iroquois	**41.36**	**2851**	No	
Joes	**47.03**	**1730**	No	X
Hortonia	**50.53**	**2790**	No	
Waterbury	**51.49**	4784	No	X
Sunset	**58.75**	**2515**	No	
Miles	**61.62**	3122	No	
Shadow (Glover)	**81.61**	3080	No	X
Holland	**81.64**	3161	No	
Peacham	**82.77**	**2560**	No	
Parker	**84.98**	4072	No	X
Fairlee	**90.37**	3460	No	X
Harveys	116.51	3505	Yes	X
Fairfield	159.91	7704	Yes	
Island Pond	204.84	7195	Yes	
Little Averill	255.44	4486	Yes	X
Salem	269.42	6305	Yes	
Morey	271.27	7146	Yes	
Echo	298.63	5907	Yes	X
Dunmore	313.34	6380	Yes	
St. Catherine	371.4	10658	Yes	
Maidstone	387.41	9561	Yes	
Crystal	408.2	11033	Yes	
Caspian	410.53	7387	Yes	X
Great Averill	411.89	8140	Yes	X
Carmi	701.55	17135	Yes	
Willoughby	1049.14	23187	Yes	X
Seymour	1130.01	13403	Yes	
Harriman	124.71 & 330.09	7674 & 15704	Yes	
Molly's Falls[2]	n/a	n/a	No	
Bomoseen	>2,000	>3,000	Yes	

Table 1. List of 30 lakes that have defined wakesports zones within the UPW Rules. This table identifies how these 30 lakes would be impacted by a new definition of a wakesports zone.

[2] Mollys Falls Reservoir has experienced a permanent change to its water level that makes it ineligible for wakesports under the existing wakesports zone definition.