

UMN research on boat-generated waves and propeller wash



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Dear Colleagues -

My name is Jeff Marr and I am the project manager of the University of Minnesota's Healthy Water Initiative program. Our research efforts are focusing on **recreational boat impacts on inland lakes and rivers** – specifically wave and propeller wash impacts. I know many of you are heavily invested in advocating for science-based solutions and guidelines on issues around recreational boating in Vermont and New England. I'm writing today to update you on our 2022 field research and seek your help in raising awareness of our efforts.

In summer of 2020 we initiated our first research project through the financial support of many individuals and community organizations. The field-based study focused on characterizing wave heights, wave energy and wave power of two wakesurf boats and two non-wakesurf boats. The [peer-reviewed report](#) from this study was published in February 2022 and has been widely downloaded and distributed.

To continue pushing forward, we have initiated a second phase of study focusing on **characterizing the propeller wash generated by recreational boats including wakesurf boats**. While we are actively seeking MN state funding, we have yet to secure this support. Our best option for keeping the research moving forward is to fund this next phase through a public crowdfunding campaign. To date we have raised just over \$100,000 from organizations and individuals interested in this research. This is tremendous progress and allows us to move ahead with the field work this fall, but we have a ways to go to reach our goal of \$175,000 needed to support the project through report development, peer-review, and publication.

I am writing today to ask for your help by sharing news of our project with your stakeholders and, if you feel this project has value, by making a financial contribution to our crowdfunding campaign. The funds we raise go directly to pay the staff researchers, students, and supplies we need to carry out this work. We believe the information produced in this project, namely how propeller thrust from boats interacts with the water column through vertical mixing, resuspension of inorganic and organic solids, and jet interactions with submerged vegetation and lake bottoms will be critically important for lake managers and boat owners across the country.

I am attaching a project summary that includes our scope of work, schedule, and budget. My contact information is below and I'm happy to email or talk by phone if you have questions.

Information on our crowdfunding campaign can be found [here](#).

Our Healthy Water Project Website is [here](#).

Thank you!

Jeff

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