



January 19, 2023

Oliver Pierson
Lakes and Ponds Program Manager
Department of Environmental Conservation
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
via email

Dear Oliver,

The Lake Fairlee Association (LFA) applauds and supports the DEC's decision to recognize the importance of protecting public waters by moving forward with rulemaking and establishing a new Use of Public Waters rule to manage wake boat activity on Vermont's inland lakes and ponds.

Nevertheless, the LFA recommends important changes to improve the DEC's proposed concept rule. By proposing a wake boat operating rule distance of only 500 feet as opposed to the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) petition's recommended distance of 1000 feet, the proposed concept rule does not adequately protect many of Vermont's vulnerable lakes, including Lake Fairlee, and should be strengthened to anticipate inevitable future growth in wake boat wake technology and the increasing number of wake boats on Vermont's lakes.

- The LFA supports the rule RWVL proposed in their petition that limits operating wake boats while engaging enhanced wake devices only in areas 1) 1000 feet from shore, 2) in water at least 20 feet deep, and 3) once 1 and 2 are met, in areas at least 60 contiguous acres in size. The LFA also supports the DEC's addition of the Home Lake Rule designed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- We do so because RWVL arrived at its original proposed rule through a long and arduous process of researching and evaluating scientific evidence, discussing the many possible solutions, anticipating future growth of wake boat size, weight, horsepower and numbers, and negotiating among its many members of diverse interests.
- The LFA strongly believes the DEC's proposed concept rule will not adequately protect water quality, lake shorelines, property resources, and public safety, and will overly limit safe areas for traditional normal lake uses unless the operational distance from shore is increased to 1000 feet as originally proposed by RWVL.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Vermont's lakes and ponds.

Sincerely,


David Roth

President, Lake Fairlee Association Board of Trustees