



"The Manitowoc County Lakes Association will protect and enhance the quality of area lakes and watersheds for the benefit of all."

4/17/2025

Hazardous wake size resolution

Resolution 2025 - #1

The Manitowoc County Lakes Association proposes that the following non-binding resolution be adopted to communicate our concern regarding the adverse side effects to Manitowoc County's lakes created by the use of boats creating hazardous wake sizes.

Be it resolved that the Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA) supports at a minimum a "hazardous wake" restriction preventing the intentional generation of hazardous wakes within 500 feet from any shoreline or any other water user on a lake or river and in waters less than 20 feet in depth.

Be it also resolved that although this resolution is intended for Manitowoc County lakes, MCLA recommends that hazardous wakes only be allowed on State of Wisconsin lakes that are 500 acres in size or larger to provide adequate space for the safety of all water users and mitigate any possible environmental impacts created by generation of these hazardous wakes.

For the purpose of this resolution a hazardous wake means a boat wake the height of which is intentionally amplified through the use of added ballast, boat design features or other operational procedures that are used to increase the size of the motorboat's wake. These enhanced wakes are generally created at speeds of 15 miles per hour or less with the boat operating in a continual bow up position.

Note that the intent of this resolution does not prohibit the use of any type of boat on Manitowoc County lakes; it only prohibits the creation of the hazardous wake sizes by said boats via the methods stated above.

Also, because each and every waterbody may have its own unique properties the MCLA resolution recognizes that in order to protect a specific waterbody, local municipalities shall have the right to enact or maintain local ordinances that are more restrictive than any statewide minimum that may be enacted.

Additionally, in order to aid in the prevention of invasive species, boats that move from lake to lake must safely decontaminate or remove residual onboard water prior to entering another waterbody.

**Respectfully,
Jerry Corfman
President – Manitowoc County Lakes Association**