

Title: Limitations on Jet Skis and Water Skis

The Problem:

Jet skiers and water skiers create a lot of noise and large wakes and often get too close to those who are fishing, canoeing and kayaking. While there are certainly many who are conscientious of others who share water resources in Wisconsin, there are also many who are not. In addition, their speeding watercraft often cut deeply into already undesirable and invasive weeds, spreading them throughout certain lakes and rivers. Many fishers, kayakers and canoeers no longer recreate on Wisconsin Lakes due to problems with the undesirable craft, leading to a loss of tourism income for local areas.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Jefferson County on April 9, 2012 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing the following rule change: Designate larger lakes and rivers where these faster watercraft can operate and restrict smaller lakes of a certain acreage or shape to motorless watercraft (such as kayaks and canoes) and watercraft with either low horsepower motors (such as 25 HP) or those, including jet skiers, who agree to restrict their speed to 25 MPH or less.

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