



BE WAKE WISE

CONCERNS

Wake surfing and wake boarding have increased substantially in recent years. While the challenges and excitement of these sports are undeniable, they do require large wakes which can have side effects on Crescent Lake.

SIDE EFFECTS

Large wakes can damage docks, moored boats, loon nests and limit enjoyment of small watercraft like paddleboards, canoes and kayaks. Large wakes also erode the shoreline and stir up bottom sediment which often has a high phosphorous content. Phosphorous can cause algae blooms. Sediment can clog fish gills and suffocate fish eggs.

CAUSES

While large wakes are often associated with high speed boating, you may be surprised that slow-speed boating (6 to 12 mph) creates the largest wakes. Off plane, a boat's bow angles up and the propeller angles down which creates large wakes and stirs up bottom sediment in shallow water. This is known as "plowing the water" as shown below.

Water Surface



Prop Wash Cone

Lake Bottom

Watershed Association

P.O. Box 1298, Raymond, ME 04071

PROTECT WATER QUALITY. BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER BOATERS. RESPECT AQUATIC HABITAT AND WILDLIFE.

HOW TO HELP

- Find large water areas where wakes will diminish before reaching shore and where propeller wash won't scour the bottom.
- Operate your boat at least 200 feet from shore. Wake Boats require 500 feet.
- Operate in water more than 20 feet deep. (Wake boats).
- Avoid small bays, channels and enclosed areas, especially during high water periods.
- Avoid marshy areas where fish and loon habitats are likely to exist.
- Leave and approach shore in a straight line. Turning makes large wakes.
- Operate at least 100 feet from small water craft.



The operator of any watercraft must operate at a reasonable and prudent speed for existing conditions and regulate the speed of a watercraft so as to avoid danger, injury or unnecessary inconvenience in any manner to other watercraft and their occupants, whether anchored or under way. The operator must consider the effect of the wash or wave created by their watercraft to waterfront piers, floats or other property or shorelines.