

MN COLA recognizes that wake surfing activities are fun water sports. Yet, if done where inappropriate, it/they can impact water quality, fishing, and threaten personal safety. Our goal is to keep Minnesota's public waters healthy, safe, and available for all.

Position Statement – Enhanced Wake Activities

We support best practices for watercraft users, uses, and enhanced wake activities as prescribed in the Minnesota Watercraft Operator's Permit. These best practices address approaches:

- for the personal safety of other water users
- to avoid conflict on the water
- to reduce shoreline erosion and the resultant water quality degradation
- to minimize lakebed disruption to plants and fish spawning beds, and the resuspension of embedded materials.

We support regulations for watercraft uses and wave actions intended to minimize the negative effects of enhanced wake activities based on research from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory at the University of Minnesota.

- A **minimum depth of 20 feet** to minimize sub-surface ecological impact, combined with
- A **minimum distance from shore of 500 feet;** however, at least **575 feet from shore is recommended** to reduce the wave energy impact on shorelines to a level like non-enhanced wake watercraft.



We support an increase in funding to better address water patrol services and enforcement of enhanced wake regulations.

We support the use of readily available location technology for enhanced wake boat operators to locate the safe surfing zone as defined by water depth and distance from shore combined.