

Wake Surfing: Understanding the Impact on Our Lakes

This summer, discussions at many gatherings have centered on wake boats. Members have been expressing concerns via Facebook and email about the lack of clear rules. They report that the large wakes from these boats pose a problem for smaller vessels, such as fishing boats, kayaks, and paddle boards. Additionally, others have raised concerns about shoreline damage. While there are many questions, there are few definitive answers.

In late July, the University of Minnesota St Anthony Falls Laboratory released Phase II of its research on the environmental impacts of boat-generated waves and propeller wash. The study's goal is to provide information so that everyone can enjoy and protect their favorite Minnesota lakes. Links to the updates and the Phase I 2022 research are provided below.

For a quick overview, watch the videos from the study that compare a wake boat and a ski boat passing over the same lake bottom or read the MPR synopsis. If you have comments to share with the board, please use the contact form on the website with the subject line: Wake Boat Study.

We hope that this article is the beginning of a larger discussion about how to balance recreational use and the on-going of health of Long Lake.

More information:

Go to the U of MN Research page under Environmental Stewardship page on LLAA website:

<https://www.longlakeliving.org/environmental-stewardship/university-of-minnesota-studies/>

