

## Lake Use Survey: Wake Surfing Comments

### In Favor of Wake Surfing:

#### Safer:

1. Surfing wakes are created at a slower speed and thus create no more impact on the shoreline than faster traveling craft. Surfers stay directly behind the boat - which is safer for them and all other boat traffic.
2. Wake surfing is safer and less impactful on environment than water skiing, tubing, wake boarding, and tour boats. You should be attacking those activities before attacking wake surfing. First, water skiing and tubing are done at speeds of 20-30 mph. Additionally, the rider is more than 50 feet behind the boat. Moreover, they are usually outside of the boats footprint which creates even more danger. The boat usually needs to swerve side to side to make the ride better. Finally, the rider is usually attached to the board, so when they fall, they could break a leg or foot. In contrast, wake surfing is done at only 10 mph. The rider is usually only 10 to 15 feet behind the boat which has a propeller well under the boat for safety. Additionally, they do not go beyond the footprint of the boat. The rider is also not strapped to the board, so when they fall they won't break their foot or leg.
3. I do not believe one lake activity should take precedence over the other. If someone wants to seek smooth, undisturbed waters for fishing, kayaking, etc. then they can find that in the early morning every day. Moreover, wake surfing is performed at low speeds (10 mph) and the wakes produced are extremely similar to wake boarding; one could argue that due to the lower speeds, it may be a safer activity to participate in on busy days.

#### Too Many Regulations:

4. There are enough regulations in place.
5. Do NOT attempt to make Lake Lure a pontoon-only lake.
6. We have enough rules now. Not any more are needed.
7. Let them surf unless it creates a significant problem. Keep the regulations minimal. We don't need a bunch of big rules in Lake Lure.
8. Too many regulations already! Enough! Whereas, we do not participate in wake boarding or wake skiing, it should not be regulated.

#### Unfair to Ban/Heavily Restrict:

9. If you cancel wake surf boats because of waves, then you have to cancel the Town tour boats that create as big of wakes.
10. You charge a lot of money for the "privilege" of using this small lake. Lake James is calling us or Lake Bowen - much cheaper, bigger, and less restrictions.
11. I own a wake boat that I bought specifically for Lake Lure, as my mother has a house on the lake. My kids enjoy surfing over wake boarding given the slower speed. Hopefully, they will be able to continue having fun.
12. Too heavily restricting wake-surfing will drive young people away from the lake, and further study is warranted to understand the actual impact of wake-surfing before the activity is restricted or banned. Wake-surfing is a family friendly activity for all ages. There are few injuries and it's easy to learn and enjoy. For younger people interested in water sports, wake-surfing is and will be what draws them to the lake. Too heavily restricting wake-surfing (or worse, banning it outright) will without doubt make the lake a less desirable destination for young people. And, there's no direct indication that heavily restricting will solve erosion issues. Wake-surfing is not

happening consistently throughout the week, instead primarily on weekends. How many boats per day engage in wake-surfing? For every time someone goes by wake-surfing, a tour drives by dozens if not hundreds of times. Does one wake-surfing boat have more impact than a tour boat driving by a dozen times with thousands of people? More than many normal boats driving by? Further study might also show that further restrictions on tour boat activity are needed, for example, to prevent operation at the speeds where they cause massive rolling waves.

13. No new restrictions are necessary and certainly not for lake property owners. I own 2 homes on the water.
14. Possible answer to #1 is "A" but seems too restrictive.
15. We wake surf using Lake Lure Adventure Company - they pull grandkids. Any restrictions on wake surfing need to be reasonable and this should not be the start down to more and more restrictions.
16. I purchased our lake house and boat after reviewing all the rules and what was allowed/permitted. I don't think it's right to ban wake surfing, especially for reasons being listed.
17. It is unfair to people like myself who just purchased a \$100,000 boat with the understanding of what was allowed/permitted.
18. I feel more education needs to be looked at prior to jumping to a conclusion. I do not recall receiving a survey prior to the town allowing 110 more boats at the marina. All the additional boat traffic limits the safe operation of tubing, water skiing, and wake boarding. Wake surfing is done at a slow speed (9 mph) and does not require 30 - 40' wake room behind the boat that other water sports require. I am in great hopes that a compromise can be made in this big decision.
19. Lake Lure is a gem. Lake Lure is a gift to all who are blessed to boat its waters. We see no reason why there should be any restrictions with wake surfing.
20. If you want Lake Lure to be like it is up North, then y'all need to move back up North. We love Lake Lure the way it is. Quit trying to change everything.

#### Comparable to Other Activities

21. Wake surfing is much less of an issue than tubing.
22. We don't see a major difference in the waves of various water sports by the time they reach the shore.
23. I think people should be able to enjoy the lake the way they want as long as it is safe and respectful to other boaters.
24. This a recreation lake, let there be recreation.
25. We have observed that the boat pulling a wake surfer is going slower than a wake board er. We have enjoyed the skills and athleticism that a wake surfer possesses.
26. Have not noticed any additional wake from wake surfing. The wind causes more problems with enormous waves than anything else. It seems adding all the berths at the marina may have potential for harm by adding to additional traffic on the lake.
27. Wake surfing is much less disruptive than skiing, wake boarding, and tubing as it is much slower and does not require navigation around tubers, skiers, and wake boarders from a safety aspect, given the rider is close to the boat. To limit this 1 activity makes absolutely no sense, given the minimal noise, and footprint while not putting restrictions on other water sports. There is no reason to limit time/areas for any of our motorized sports.

#### Enjoyment:

28. My 14-year-old son asked if he could learn how to wake surf this summer and I look forward to teaching him.
29. We bought our boat specifically for wake surfing 4 years ago and live on the lake.
30. Please, acknowledge those already on the lake with lake-surfing capability. In some way, this should be grandfathered.
31. I've wake surfed since 1963. It's the ballast boats that are the issue.
32. Please, support all people's rights to use the lake to have fun - wake surfing, too. I truly feel if you pass this it's just a matter of time before you move on to the next restriction.
33. I only wake boarded twice last year and only wake surfed once, but I should be able to when I want, as should my 3 teenage daughters.
34. My children and I myself only want to wake surf. Additionally, I just purchased my permit. This discussion should have happened months ago.
35. Have owned property since 2013 and owned boat since 2008. My family enjoys wake surfing and wake boarding. That is why we are living on the lake. I don't want to be told I can no longer enjoy these activities. The Lake Lure Tour boats are larger and heavier than wake boats, give off larger wakes, and are on the lake 9 months a year. If we are talking about banning boats, I want those on the list, also.

**In Favor of Allowing Wake Surfing with Restrictions:**

1. My biggest concern is the large wake produced by the boat that causes terrible issues with sea walls. If restricted to some distance from shoreline, it is acceptable.
2. Limit non-resident boats. Require boat driving course for anyone driving/renting boats.
3. Should consider only allowing wake surfing for a limited number of operators and regulate areas/times.
4. Wake boarding is safe as long as riders have appropriate PFD. It should be limited to an area.
5. We are fine with wake surfing, but do know it creates a lot of waves. If it's causing erosion, then we support restrictions.
6. Wake surfing should not be a problem by regulating times/locations.
7. Small lake. I recommend lake surfing early morning hours.
8. If limited to lakefront residents, not a concern. Overall volume of boats on the lake is more of a concern.
9. I do support limiting hours to early a.m. and late afternoons for towing and skiing.
10. If not banned, I would support specific time limits.
11. Set times and areas.
12. If this is allowed, it should only be done out in the middle to allow the waves to dissipate before they hit the shoreline!
13. I have mixed emotions about this but feel having a restricted area in the middle of the lake at designated times might be a fair compromise.

## Opposed to Wake Surfing:

### Lake Too Small:

1. Seems very unsafe for boaters on small lake.
2. It seems to me that our lake is far too small to allow this activity. It already is very rough when there are skiers and wake boarding. This will only make it rougher.
3. Lake not big enough for wake surfing, just like jet skis.
4. Our lake is a bit tight for wake surfing. It is ripe for an accident from a sudden stop
5. Lake is not wide enough or big enough for that. Too disruptive for leisurely boating.
6. The lake is too small and crowded at times to allow wake surfing.
7. Lake is very small and dangerously overcrowded in summer.
8. Lake is too small for wake boats. Presents dangers to smaller vessels.
9. Our lake is too small for these activities - if allowed, it should only be in certain areas.
10. Lake Lure is too small for wake surfing. Wakes are too big.
11. Lake is not large enough for boats that generate large wakes - whose wakes create erosion.
12. Lake is too small for wake surfing. We have seen it on much larger lakes.
13. Lake is not large enough for wake surfing
14. Lake Lure is too small for wake surfing - destroys shoreline, huge waves, etc.
15. I don't feel Lake Lure is a large enough lake for wake surfing. Too much shoreline damage.
16. If Lake Lure were larger, I would not have an issue with wake surfing. Safety is my major concern to surfer and boats.
17. In my opinion, the lake is not big enough to support this activity and still be safe for leisure boats.
18. Lake is too small, very destructive to seawalls and has torn a support that a boat was tied to, has caved in a boathouse door.
19. Lake isn't big enough for the big wake that the slow boat makes.
20. The lake gets too crowded on holidays especially for this type of high impact sport on such a small lake.
21. Lake Lure is too small of a lake permit wake surfing, which produces massive waves that damage seawalls and moored boats. About time something is done about it.
22. This is a relatively small lake. With slip expansion in Washburn Marina and more kayaks/canoes, the overall increase in lake traffic places an even greater emphasis on minimizing wakes to the extent possible.
23. No wake boarding boats should be allowed on Lake Lure. Too small of a lake for boats that create such waves.
24. Many more boats and they don't seem to know lake rules. Boats have gotten bigger with bigger motors, too. Wake surfing makes it impossible to pull skiers and tubers safely. Channels are not wide enough for this. Thank you for addressing this issue.

### Too Much Wake Created:

25. Too much wake on the lake
26. Wake surfing creates tremendous waves that endanger people, rocks, and boats at marinas
27. At times, it is difficult to enjoy lake due to being tossed around by waves of boats pulling tubes. Nearly been thrown overboard many times.
28. Minimize wakes; definitely don't have activity that amplifies them
29. I don't want to stop someone from enjoying the lake, but as a kayaker, I'd like to not have to deal with boaters creating big wakes that would prevent me from enjoying my activity.

30. I paddle board on big lakes with wake surfing. It is loud and most of the time, sends me swimming. Lake Lure is just too small a lake.
31. Wake surfing needs to stop. The size of the waves has grown tremendously over the last couple of years. Wake surfing and tour boats. Slow tour boats down.
32. The waves created by wake surfing just pummel any boat just drifting or fishing.
33. As much fun as it looks, the sport further encourages large wakes. Lake Lure is too small for this level of activity.
34. Wake surfing negatively impacts all the above listed activities due to large wake created in a narrow lake.
35. Wake surfing boats move slowly, obstructing other traffic. The powerful wakes disrupt kayaks/canoes and shorelines. Lake Lure is too narrow for the wave to dissipate adequately.
36. We have seen a huge increase in boat activity the last 2 years - difficult to kayak at times with wake.
37. Too much wake on lake now
38. We feel this will cause more waves.
39. Always get swamped with surfing.
40. Wake boat almost turned our bass boat over at Rumbling Bald Cove.
41. Boats with big waves affect fishing boats and small boats, paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, and rowing.
42. I have a 14-ft Jon boat and it can be difficult when there is a lot of wake.
43. I like to paddle board early in the morning and almost always lose my balance due to the wake the wake boarding boats create - no fun.
44. The wake in Lake Lure is already too much on weekends. I think limiting motor boats in general is a good next step.
45. I believe that wake surfing would create too much wake and therefore make it unsafe for paddle boating/canoeing/kayaking.
46. Many other vessels on the lake are impacted by the larger waves, making it more difficult.
47. While kayaking, these waves threaten to turn you over. Even in the pontoon boat, the waves they make are terrible and we always take on water.
48. The weights in the stern of the boat puts the boat so low that the waves are huge.
49. Boats large enough for these size wakes will make it difficult to paddle board.
50. The size and empty weight of the surf boats needs better review before being allowed on the lake. Even when their tanks are not filled and are not being used for surfing, they are putting out large wakes.
51. Lake Lure is far too small to accommodate large boat wakes.
52. Being a kayaker, the less powerboats, the better.
53. As a kayaker, I would appreciate no more wake activities.
54. The people that wake board have no regards to anyone. They always stay close to the wake areas. They do not stay in the middle of the lake causing large waves against boats fishing or paddle boarding. If they set timer to allow wake boarding, all this type activity should be 9 am to dark and be enforced by police to stay in the middle of lake area they are using.
55. I also have to be careful to look for wake boats so I'm not caught in their wake. They have no regard for me as I am leisurely boating on this small lake in a kayak. These boats should be on a larger lake.

Dangerous:

56. The wakes created by tubing, wake boarding, and wake surfing are dangerous and disturbing.

57. The boats that wake surf cause congestion due to slow speed and massive wake. Not good for high traffic days.
58. I think with the amount of skiers and boats circling to pick them up, we don't need surfing.
59. We believe Lake Lure is too small of a lake to support larger, faster boats that increase risks and decrease overall safety.
60. Wake board riders have less control of their direction, therefore more dangerous.
61. Wake surfing would make the lake very dangerous for small watercraft and accelerate erosion.
62. There is too much traffic to allow towing sports.
63. Large wakes can be dangerous to small boats and swimmers, especially children. Do not allow!
64. Better boat wake speed awareness. Noise control on loud music on boats. Just as jet skis were done away with wake boarding and wake surfing should be prohibited. Too many boats on the lake with large wakes is dangerous and bad for lakefront properties. It makes it hard to paddle board and kayak, as well.
65. Boats designed to create large wake are dangerous to other boats, destructive to shorelines, and destructive to property.
66. I also find these people a bit reckless and totally self-absorbed.

Causes Damage:

67. Firmly oppose wake surfing and the damage the large wakes creates.
68. Wakes damage seawalls.
69. Wake surfing damages the shoreline and lake bottom. It also interferes with the safe operation of licensed non-motorized watercraft including SUP's. It will get worse.
70. Lake Lure is such a small lake and wake destroys our shorelines - too much wake and traffic already on the lake.
71. Large wakes will cause shoreline erosion! Large wakes are needed to wake surf, this is not a good idea.
72. The wakes, especially from ballast boats, are detrimental to the lake and erosion.
73. Wake surfing damages seawalls, stirs up the water. The lake is too small. Go to bigger lakes to do this.
74. All "wake" activities are similarly disruptive and destructive to the shoreline. Lake's wave "acoustics" are wrong for this type of use.
75. Wake surfing causes shoreline erosion and damage to people's docks, boathouses, and parked boats.
76. The large wake can cause damage to seawalls.
77. Thanks for asking - we just spent over \$10,000 due to the much larger wakes now coming from larger and fully weighted boats. Had to rip rap entire shoreline. 2 years ago, we had a 20' beach.
78. The wake is very destructive to our seawall. We have noticed deterioration due to wake surfing.
79. I don't think the wake that is generated by a boat designed for wake surfing is healthy for the shoreline or the properties on the lake.
80. If you have a friend visiting and has his boat tied to your dock and a wake surfing boat comes by, your friend's boat might get yanked off/away from the dock.
81. Boats are going so fast the waves break my seawall. I love and support water sports, but want participants to respect the lake and home owners on the lake.
82. Large waves threaten boater safety and do greater harm to shoreline and seawalls! Wake surfing is hazardous to surfer who is not accompanied by boater and subject to other boat traffic. Our lake is too small and narrow due to boat density

83. Our seawall has been destroyed by the constant pounding from wakes....ski/wake boats and the large tour tri-toons.
84. The type of wake needed to wake surf is creating damage to lakefront owners' seawalls.
85. Wake surfing is destructive to shorelines, huge waves, Lake Lure is too small .
86. It is difficult to support a recreational activity that so adversely impacts anyone on the lake, nearby, and virtually all property, docks, boathouses, seawalls, shoreline, and beaches.
87. These wake surfing boats create huge waves that damage onshore facilities and shoreline and disrupt normal traffic. Lake is too small and narrow for these boats.
88. 2 years ago, I spent \$5,000 shoring up my seawall and piers. I feel like a lot of the damage was caused by large wake action.
89. This needs to stop - causing thousands of dollars in damage to seawalls.
90. All wake boats should be banned. They create erosion and unpleasant boating conditions.
91. I think additional waves will wash my wall away. I already had to ad rock barrier. We live on the main channel.
92. Wakes destroy shoreline!
93. Boat owners may need to be educated about the hazards of wake surfing to our shoreline.
94. These waves caused by wake surfing are causing problems in boathouse and shorelines.
95. Our property has experienced damage to the seawall, dock pilings, and the pontoon, which is not on a boat lift, from the wakes of large surf boats. Most of the wakes are caused by just the size of the surf boats, regardless of whether there is someone surfing or not. The size and weight of the surf boats is as much of an issue as the actual surf activity.
96. The wake from "ski boats" causes excessive erosion. The noise pollution distracts from the beauty of the lake and quality of life. A fatal boat accident is very likely with the crowded conditions.
97. No, carbon-emission powerboat activities must be reduced, not increased. I realize it's all about money and culture, but neither this small lake nor this small planet can sustain it. The powerboat usage on this lake is already excessive, hindering wildlife and environmentally friendly activities such as paddling, rowing, canoeing, and kayaking. Unpopular though it may be, we must start protecting the lake and the rest of the area.

Noisy:

98. I think the lake needs to maintain its serene atmosphere.
99. We moved to this lake because it was quiet, no large boats, no new jet skis allowed.
100. Used to be a quiet, peaceful lake. Too much fast annoying boating and surfing.
101. This is a small lake surrounded by mountains which amplifies loud noises. The commission should do more to protect activities such as fishing, canoeing, and kayaking which have less impact on the lake.

Miscellaneous:

102. We also support prohibiting wake boarding activities, altogether.
103. The concern would be the speed of the boats and the potential crowd it would draw.