

## LIFE JACKETS

The following are life jacket requirements in Minnesota:

- State law requires children under 10 years old to wear a properly fitted life jacket while a boat is underway. Underway means not securely fastened to a permanent mooring or tied to a dock.
- A readily accessible and wearable life jacket **is required for each person onboard a boat**, this includes canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, paddleboats and waterfowl boats.
- **One Type IV throwable is required on boats 16 feet or longer** (except canoes and kayaks) and must be immediately available.
- Personal watercraft operators and passengers must each wear a life jacket.



**FOR YOUR SAFETY, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND EVERYONE ON BOARD WEARS A LIFE JACKET AT ALL TIMES.**

## SCUBA DIVERS LOVE BAD MEDICINE!

### SCUBA DIVING

Scuba divers must display a warning flag when diving.



#### The diver's flag must:

- Measure at least 15 inches horizontally and 12 inches vertically.
- Both sides must have a red-colored background bisected diagonally by a 3-inch wide white stripe.
- There is also a blue and white diver's flag authorized under the federal rules of the road.

#### Other scuba diving laws and rules:

- Boats not involved with the diving operation must remain 150 feet away from a flag.

## Wake Awareness

Almost every motorboat can create a wake, which is why boaters must be aware of the danger wakes present and the damage they can do. While common courtesy dictates boaters should control their wakes, there are consequences beyond how wakes may affect people. So, what do boaters really need to know when it comes to owning their wake?

Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. Personal watercrafts (PWC) must stay at least 150 feet from shore. There is no required distance for boats, but by staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures boaters can reduce the likelihood their wakes will cause damage.

**— Be aware of your environment and what's going on around you – this applies to everyone on and around the water.**

- Have a designated lookout to keep an eye out for other boats, objects, and swimmers.
- If crossing a wake, cross at low speeds and keep a close lookout for skiers and towables.

**— Stay at least 200 feet away from shorelines, docks or other structures. Backing a boat up to a riverbank or lakeshore can damage the area and lead to erosion. Travel slowly in shallow waters.**

- Travel slowly in shallow waters and avoid boating in water less than 2½ feet deep. High speeds near shorelines lead to large wakes that cause shoreline erosion.

**Minimize repetitive passes.** Once you've run a line, move on to another area. Comply with all signs and respect barriers.

**Respect the rights of others** so everyone can enjoy their time on the water – keep the noise down, be courteous to other boaters, and show consideration to all recreationists on and around the water.

**Own your wake.** The fastest way to make the wrong kinds of waves is to literally throw a big, obtrusive wave at another boat, swimmer, angler or shoreline owner. This is much more than being a nuisance or disrupting others' experience on the water. It's dangerous to those unable to tolerate a large wake. Stay at least 200 feet from the shoreline and other boaters.

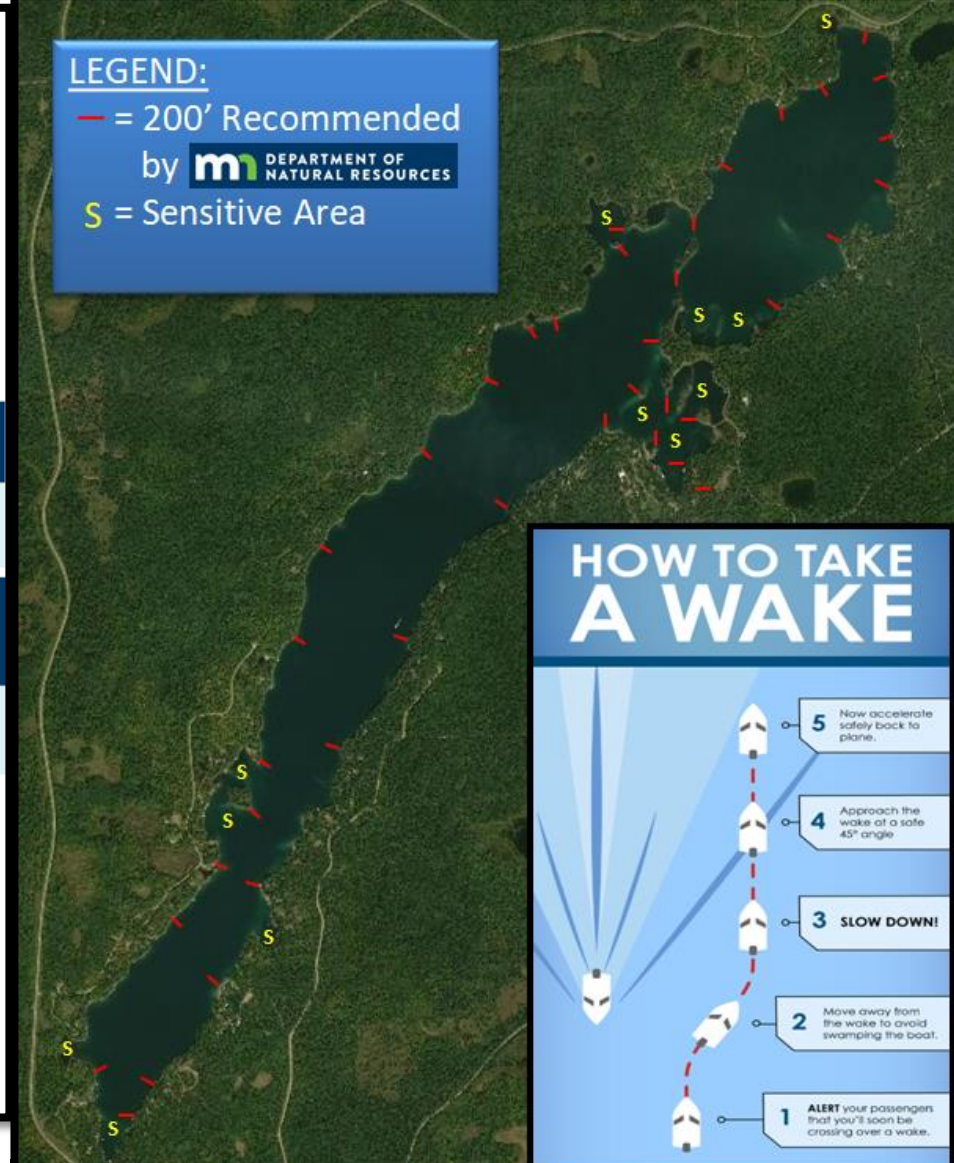
**Keep the tunes in check.** Sound is amplified over the water, so keep the music at a decent level. Not only is it a disturbance to others but the operator may not hear the spotter.

### MAKING A BIGGER WAKE? STAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE

- For boats producing larger wakes (tubing, surfing, etc...) 200'+ is supported by the MN DNR but whenever possible stay in the middle of the lake (West to East) which allows for 300-800'+ from shore. Surely there are times when boat traffic, weather, etc... needs to be maneuvered around which is understandable. Please do your best to be cognizant of other boats, non-motorized boats etc... and do your best share the lake.

## LEGEND:

- = 200' Recommended
- by 
- S = Sensitive Area



### WHAT DOES 'SENSITIVE AREA' MEAN?

- These areas are primarily the bays and areas with shallow water and/or sensitive habitat. Maintaining as much distance from shore (DNR recommends 200'+) or operating at slow speed/low-wake is recommended for many reasons (no-wake is even better to protect these areas). These areas are home to an abundance of wildlife from fish beds, loon nests, etc... Also, a slower speed in these areas is simply safer and might just save your prop. Please help to protect the lake by operating with extra caution and attention when near these areas. Think of boating in these areas as driving down your street back home.

## PROTECT YOUR WATERS



By taking a few simple steps, you can help protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers from zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) cannot move across the land without help, but when given a lift they can spread almost anywhere.

### Take these actions required by law:

- **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, mud and debris off your boat, trailer and other water-related equipment before leaving a water access or shoreland property. It's illegal to transport prohibited invasive plants or animals, whether dead or alive.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs **before** leaving a water access. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, worms and fish parts in the trash. It's illegal to release live bait into a water body, dump worms on the ground or move aquatic animals or water from one water body to another.

## Bad Medicine Lake Safety, Education & Etiquette (S.E.E.) Committee

The goal of the BMLAASEE Committee is 'To have Safety, Education & Etiquette be on the top of the mind as far as awareness and to bring lake lovers together, not drive them apart.'

We welcome all to enjoy Bad Medicine Lake and ask for your help in maintaining its unique character and beauty for future generations to enjoy.

- **Safety** – Topics related to continuing Bad Medicine's strong safety record in recent history. Anything the BMLAA feels others should know to help keep everyone safe.
- **Education** – We fear what we don't understand, education can help with this. Most issues can be solved with simple communication. The goal is to not let conflict govern our lake, but to work together to understand the many, many different types of recreation on the lake.
- **Etiquette** – There are many things which are not illegal, but certainly not necessary. The goal here is to reduce these instances as much as possible, while keeping in mind everyone makes mistakes from time to time.

The goal is to provide informational and educational material to improve boating behavior for watercraft of all kinds. The SEE Committee and BMLAA are NOT enforcement and are NOT going to attempt to create regulations.

## EXAMPLES OF GOOD ETIQUETTE:

- Idling at no wake until you are past boats which are between shore and where you plan to start your watersport of choice
- Moving away from fishing boats/kayakers/canoes/paddle boarders when participating in tow sports (skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, etc...). Maintaining 200' at a minimum and doing all you can to give even more distance.
- Non-motorized boats have the right of way. If 200' can't be maintained go another direction.
- Moving away from a boat who is participating in tow sports, especially if children are being pulled.
- Sometimes, simply waiting for a less busy time on the lake or apologizing when a mistake is made.
- There are plenty more good examples happening daily on the lake. It's OK to catch someone doing something right.

**PACK IT IN  
PACK IT OUT  
PLEASE  
PACK OUT  
ALL TRASH**

### Non-Motorized Craft(Canoe, Kayak, Paddle Boards, etc...):

- The safest place for these watercraft is near the shore and in the bays. The lake is less busy in the morning and during the week for those looking for less lake traffic. Nonmotorized craft (sailboats, canoes, etc.) have the right-of-way over motorized craft in all situations, except when the nonmotorized craft is overtaking or passing.

Must at least carry a white antern or flashlight. Light should be strong enough so that other boats around the horizon can see it at least two miles away.

- Light must be displayed in sufficient time to avoid a collision with another watercraft.

## LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY

### NAVIGATION LIGHTS

Navigation lights must be on from sunset to sunrise. Most motorboats 16 feet or longer will likely be equipped with the correct navigation lights by the manufacturer. Only U.S. Coast Guard-approved lights will meet the following requirements.

### WHERE TO GO WITH CONCERNS:

- Friendly neighborly conversation
- Email: seebadmed@gmail.com
- Becker Co Sherriff/Water Patrol - 218-847-2661
- MN DNR - 1-888-646-6367
- Local Legislator

### PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

- Anytime you can pull your boat, pontoon, kayak, etc... out of the water(i.e. lift or further on shore) the odds of it being damaged or pulled into the lake to float away are greatly reduced.
- If a lift is not available, secure tightly and use bumpers to keep away from the dock it is secured to.

### Personal Watercraft Laws

In summary, the law requires that:

- Anyone operating or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket that is compatible with that activity (check the label).
- Personal watercraft must travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of nonmotorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.
- Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset.
- You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other watercraft. This includes other personal watercraft.