

# Water Policy, Wakes, and More

Presented by Michael Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

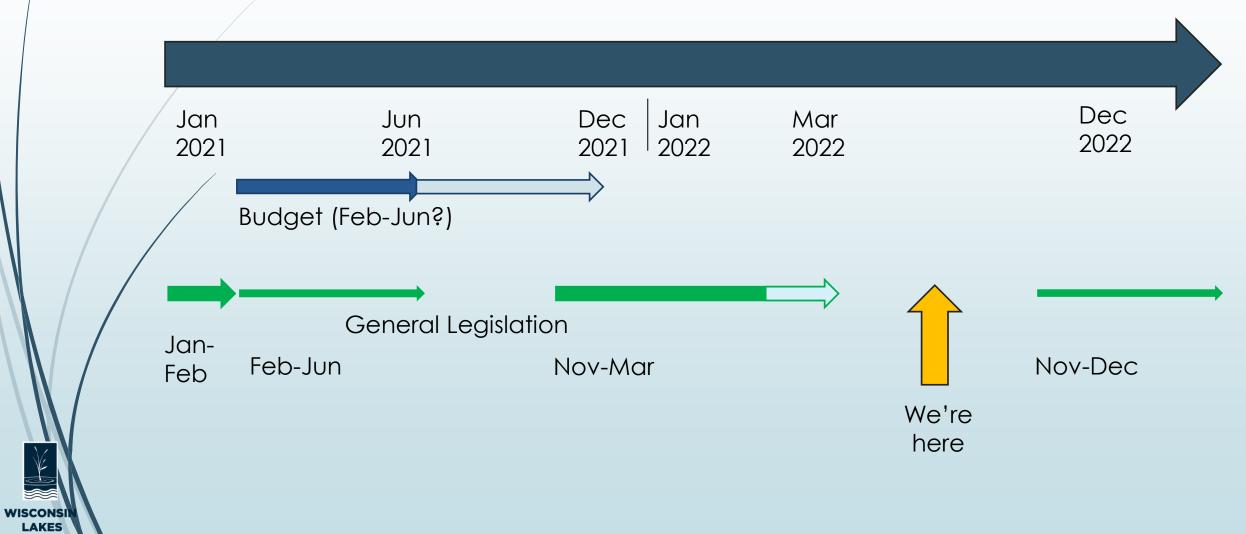
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## Wisconsin Lakes - What We Do



- ✓ Promote healthy lakes
- ✓ Provide education and technical assistance to lake organizations
- ✓ Advocate for sound, science-based lake policy
- ✓ Work with regional and statewide partners to promote & accomplish our mission

### **LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE**



## Legislation Directly Impacting Lakes



## Shoreland Zoning Access & Viewing Corridor Allowance Act 100/AB919 / SB867

- Clarifies previous language
- Sets minimum and maximum viewing corridor counties must
   allow
- Old rule: 35' of corridor per 100' of shoreland frontage
- New law: Generally 35% of frontage, with 10 ft min and 200 ft maximum
- Passed by legislature, signed by Governor
- WI LAKES SUPPORTED



## Restoring County Control to Shoreland Zoning AB1110 / SB1090

- Restores county authority to set shoreland zoning standards stricter than those in state law and rule
- Restores law to pre-2015
- Reason to introduce a bill after the session is essentially over
- Introduced in March, will not be acted on this session
- WI LAKES SUPPORTED



# Rulemakings & Other Stuff



## NR107 – Aquatic Plant Management

- Revision of NR107 & NR109 APM permitting
- Best Management Practice
- Adaptive Management
- Public comment concluded scheduled for presentation to Natural Resources Board in August



### Recreational Uses of Lakes

- On-water
  - **■**Swimming
  - **→** Fishing
  - **■** Powerboats
  - Personal Watercraft (i.e. jet skis)

- Off-water
  - ResidentialDevelopment
  - Short-term home rentals
  - Campgrounds
  - ■Shoreland day-use









## Increasing recreational pressure – the statistics

- 310,000 new powerboats sold in the U.S. last year,12% increase over 2019
  - 8% national increase in personal watercraft sales, 20% in wakeboats
- In Wisconsin, boat sales increased 9%, registrations rose by 2% to 621,114
  - Up from 607,289 in 2019, but less than 2017(624,882) and the high of 2011 (629,000)
- 1.27 Million fishing licenses in 2020, up 19% from 2019

### Sources

- Milwaukee Journal Sentiinel, <a href="https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/outdoors/2021/01/23/wisconsin-boat-sales-and-registrations-up-during-coronavirus-pandemic/6664556002/">https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/outdoors/2021/01/23/wisconsin-boat-sales-and-registrations-up-during-coronavirus-pandemic/6664556002/</a>
- WDNR WI Recreational Vehicle Safety Education & Enforcement 2019 Annual Program Report, https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/le/LEB314\_2019.pdf



## Categories of Recreational Impact

- Personal
  - **■**Safety
  - **►** Frustration
  - Displacement

- Ecological/Environmental
  - Habitat
  - Water Quality
  - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



## Definitions

- What do we mean by wakeboats?
  - Create large wake for surfing
  - Slow moving
  - Ballast tanks to drive stern down





- > What do we mean by enhanced wakes?
  - Any wake intentionally created to be larger than a "normal" wake
  - After market devices can create







## Enhanced wake impacts



- Personal safety
- Property damage
- ■Shoreline damage
- Lake bottom damage
- Aquatic Invasive Species transfer



## Studies on Impacts of Enhanced Wakes

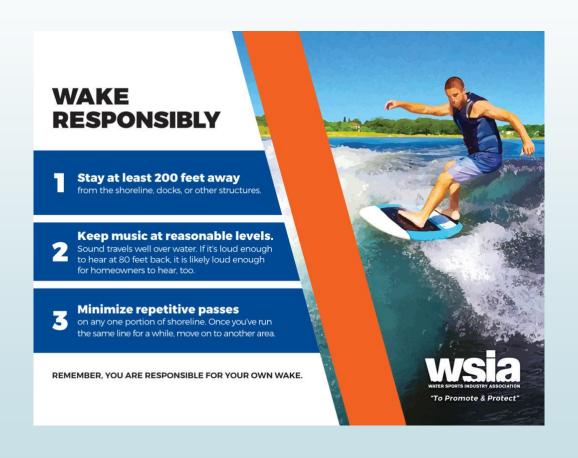
- Industry: 200' distance, 10' depth
- <u>U-Minnesota (St Anthony Falls Lab)</u>: 500' distance, no data yet on depth
- Quebec: 1000' distance, no data on depth

■ North Lake (WI) study – video evidence



### What to do - Education







## What to do - regulation

- Local ordinances
  - Focus on enhanced wakes
  - **■**Distance, depth
  - **■**Enforcement issues

Counties limited in what they can pass



## Carrying Capacity – An Important Tool

- Determination of how many watercraft doing a particular activity can be on a lake before impacting ecology, safety, and enjoyment
  - Determine usable surface area
  - Use sociological data to determine boats per acre
- Good tool to help determine suitable ordinance terms



## Lake Classification for Recreational Suitability

- Wis Stats Sec 281.69 Lake Classification Grants
- "Lake classification projects that will classify lakes by use and implement protection activities for the lakes based on their classification" (1m) (b)
- ► Fundable projects include assessing "the potential of the lake to be overused for recreational purposes" (5)(b)4.





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