



WHAT IS WAKESURFING?

Wakesurfing is a family-friendly water sport in which a rider surfs the wake created by a specially equipped boat. Its accessibility makes it a sport that can be enjoyed across generations and by people with a wide range of physical abilities.

IMPACT OF RECREATIONAL BOATING IN THE UNITED STATES:

\$230B

annual economic impact

812,558

jobs supported

\$56.7B

in annual sales of boat, marine products & services

12M

registered boats

36,101

businesses supported

WHY PATCHWORK LOCAL RULES DON'T WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

Boaters often use multiple waterways throughout the season. A patchwork of local regulations creates confusion, complicates boater education and enforcement, and results in inconsistent restrictions on lawful recreation. A clear, statewide framework helps ensure boaters understand the rules, supports consistent enforcement, and promotes safe, responsible recreation across the United States.

RECREATIONAL BOATING MATTERS IN THE U.S.

Recreational boating is an important part of the United States' outdoor recreation economy, supporting local jobs, small businesses, tourism, dealers, marinas, manufacturers, and waterfront communities.

WAKE RESPONSIBLY: BOATER SAFETY EDUCATION IS KEY

Responsible boating starts with education. Through the Water Sports Industry Association's Wake Responsibly campaign, boaters are encouraged to follow three simple best practices:

- **Minimize repetitive passes**
- **Keep music at reasonable levels**
- **Operate at least 200 feet from shore, docks, and other boats**

SMART POLICY FOR SHARED WATERS

The United States should adopt clear, statewide, commonsense wakesurfing standards—not a patchwork of local restrictions. NMMA supports consistent regulations, robust boater education, and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) recommended 200-foot-from-shore guideline to promote responsible boating, preserve public access, and support safe, shared use of the United States' waterways.

» RECOMMENDED POLICY APPROACH:

- Establish a **200-foot offset** from shore, docks, swimmers, and other vessels for wakesurfing activity
- Pair the standard with boater education and Wake Responsibly materials
- Avoid town-by-town restrictions that create confusion and inconsistent enforcement
- Preserve public access while promoting safe and courteous operation

With questions regarding recreational boating industry policy, including wakesurfing, contact Lauren Hyland, NMMA Director of Public Policy and Industry Engagement, lhylan@nmma.org