

TOWN OF LAND O' LAKES
VILAS COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING CERTAIN ARTIFICIAL WAKE ENHANCEMENT

**Section 1: STATUTORY AUTHORITY, STATEMENT OF
PURPOSE, TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY**

STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION:

The Town of Land O'Lakes ("Town") has the authority to enact ordinances covering waters within its jurisdiction if the ordinances are not contrary to or inconsistent with Chapter 30, Wis. Stats., and they relate to the equipment, use, or operation of boats or to any activity regulated by Sections. 30.60 to 30.71, Wis. Stats.

PURPOSE:

- A. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public health, safety and general welfare, to protect the public trust in natural resources, and is established to:
 - 1. Further the maintenance of safe and healthful conditions, and
 - 2. Promote the conservation of natural resources in accordance with the Town of Land O'Lakes Comprehensive Plan.
- B. To achieve these purposes, it is the intent of this ordinance to regulate the creation of enhanced wakes on lakes within the Town of Land O' Lakes, Vilas County, Wisconsin.
- C. It is the intent of this ordinance to allow reasonable use of property by individuals and businesses while providing long-term safeguards for water quality and aquatic resources, shoreline resources and property improvements on lakes within the Town of Land O' Lakes.

TITLE:

This ordinance shall be known as and cited as the Town of Land O' Lakes Artificial Wake Enhancement Ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE:

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and upon publication thereof.

APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all waters wholly within the Town of Land O' Lakes Vilas County, Wisconsin. This ordinance shall also apply to all Wisconsin waters of the following lakes straddling the border between the Town and Marenisco and Watersmeet townships in the State of Michigan: Tenderfoot Lake, Big Lake, West Bay Lake, and Mamie Lake. This ordinance shall not apply to any border lakes shared between the Town and any other Wisconsin towns.

Section 2: Enforcement:

This ordinance shall be enforceable by all officers of the Town of Land O' Lakes, Vilas County, Wisconsin, and all other individuals empowered to enforce ordinances in this Town.

Section 3: Certain Artificial Wake Enhancement Prohibited

- A. **Prohibited Equipment:** No person may use or employ ballast tanks, water sacks wake shaper fins or other similar devices to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner, or which increases or enhances a boat's wake.
- B. **Prohibited Operation:** No person may operate a boat in an artificially bow-high manner having the effect of increasing the boat's wake. Such prohibited operation shall include wake enhancement by use of ballast tanks, or water sacks, or mechanical wake shaper fins, or other similar devices or continuous operation at transition speed (the speed below planing speed in which a boat is operating in plowing mode).
- C. **Certain Operations Excluded:** In no event shall any of the following operations be deemed a violation of this ordinance, provided such operations do not use or employ ballast tanks, water sacks, wave shaping fins or other similar devices:
 - 1) water skiing,
 - 2) tubing,
 - 3) wake boarding employing a tow rope,
 - 4) brief transition operation to empty a boat of water as described in Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Chapter NR 40.07 Preventive Measures (2), Immediate Removal of Aquatic Plants and Aquatic Animals and Drainage of Water, or
 - 5) brief transition operation of a boat accelerating into a planing condition.

Section 4: Penalty

- A. Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in s. 30.80, Wis. Stats., and deposits established in the Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule established by the Wisconsin Judicial Conferences, are hereby adopted by reference, except all references to fines are amended to forfeitures and all references to imprisonment are deleted.
- B. To the extent that the penalty for any violation of this Ordinance is not provided under Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in s. 30.80, Wis. Stats., any person violating this Ordinance shall forfeit \$500 for the first offense and shall forfeit \$1000 for the second and each subsequent offense within one year. Deposits established in the WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT FEE, FORFEITURE, FINE AND SURCHARGE TABLES shall also apply to any violation.

Section 5: Definitions

Ballast Tanks and Water Sacks: Tanks or bags positioned toward the rear of a boat to keep the weight at the back and thus causing a boat's stern to ride lower in the water relative to its bow.

Boat Planing: A specific mode of operation in which a boat rides on top of the water rather than plowing through it.

Bow High or Bow Rise Operation: When a boat accelerates, the force of the propulsion pushes the stern (rear) of the boat downward and lifts the bow upward. This creates a shift in the boat's trim, with the bow rising and the stern squatting lower in the water. Boats equipped with ballast tanks, water sacks or wave shaper fins or other similar devices utilized to create enhanced wakes will operate in a bow high manner.

Transition speed: The speed below planing speed in which a boat is operating in plowing mode.

Wave Shaper Fins: A device specially designed to enhance the size and shape of wave like wakes.
Wave shapers are attached to each side of a boat near the stern and below the water line.


Section 6: Severability

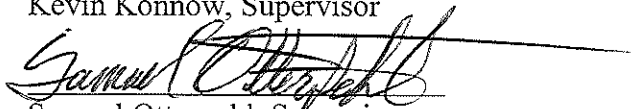
Should any portion of this Ordinance or the affected Code Section(s) be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected.

Adopted this 21st day of May, 2025

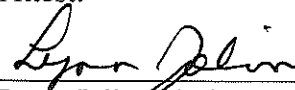
Approved by the Town Board:


Daniel Balog, Chairman


Kevin Konnow, Supervisor


Samuel Otterpohl, Supervisor

Attest:


Lynn Jolin, Clerk-Treasurer