



August 8, 2025

Bianca Cleary
Clerk
Town of Spider Lake
10896W Town Hall Rd.
Hayward, WI 54843

Subject: Ordinance Review Letter – Restricting Certain Artificial Wake Enhancement

Dear Town Clerk Bianca Cleary:

On 07-14-2025, the Department received your proposed ordinance to regulate boaters on the waterways of Spider Lake in Sawyer County, specifically regarding the restriction of certain artificial wake enhancement methods. Thank you for being concerned about the safety and welfare of the recreational users in Wisconsin and the protection of its natural resources. This letter serves as a review of your proposed ordinance as required under s. 30.77, Stats.

The proposed ordinance is consistent with s. 30.77, Stats. The ordinance is consistent with this chapter as it is seeking to address safety concerns for recreational users and the natural resources. You have cited safety concerns for other user, such as operating in a bow high manor could possibly obstruct the operator's view and lead to collisions. You have also cited concerns for the natural resources including the spread of aquatic invasive species through use of the ballast tanks, the disturbance of the lakebed upsetting the ecosystem and mercury deposits, and the increased wave height disturbing waterfowl nesting and lake vegetation.

As a reminder, the following must occur upon final approval of the ordinance:

1. After the ordinance is signed, a copy must be sent to your Recreation Warden
2. Notice of the ordinance must be posted at all public access sites.

If you have not already done so, it is advised you consult with your local law enforcement official(s) regarding enforceability of the proposed ordinance, seek public input, and to consult with your legal counsel should you have any legal questions.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please e-mail me at peter.wetzel@wisconsin.gov or call me at 715-371-8220.

Sincerely,

Peter Wetzel
Recreation Warden
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources