

New Boating Laws for 2010

100 foot Slow-No-Wake Wis. Act 31 – effective February 1, 2010

- This law establishes a slow-no-wake restriction for all motorboats that are not personal watercraft, when operating within 100 feet of the shoreline of all lakes. This restriction will not apply to boats operating within 100 feet of shore on a river or portion of a river that has not been designated as a lake. There is already a slow-no-wake restriction that applies to personal watercraft when operating within 200 feet of shore of all lakes, which has been in effect since August 1, 1998 and will continue to apply to personal watercraft. On the same waters where the 200' SNW restriction has applied in the past for PWC, the new restriction will apply to all other motor boats.
- A lake is determined by its status in the most current version of Wisconsin Lakes, PubI-FH-800.
- This new 100' slow-no-wake restriction will not apply to the operators of motorboats engaged in water skiing activities at properly designated pickup and drop off areas marked with regulatory markers.

Aquatic Invasives – Illegal to Transport Laws – effective Nov. 12, 2009

Beginning with the 2010 boating season, it is now illegal to spread invasive species. There are more provision to this law regarding fish and bait, however these are the ones that relate to boating.

- Failure to remove all aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached to any vehicle or to drain all water from boat trailers, equipment or gear immediately after leaving the water and before leaving a boat launch area or associated parking area.
- Launching or placing a vehicle, boat, boat trailer, equipment or gear into waters of the state, if an aquatic plant or aquatic animal is attached.
- Transporting on a public highway a vehicle, boat, boat trailer, equipment or gear, if an aquatic plant or aquatic animal is attached.
- Transport over land from another state any vehicle, boat, boat trailer, equipment or gear for use in Wisconsin waters without first removing all attached aquatic plants and aquatic animals and draining all water.
- Using a live prohibited fish invasive species as fishing bait.
- Using any live non-native crayfish as bait for fishing on inland or outlying waters, except for rusty crayfish that are dead, or live rusty crayfish on the Mississippi River.

Mandatory PFD Wear – pending

As this time, legislation is pending which will require children less than 13 years of age to wear a lifejacket while boating.