



With boating season creeping upon us, we need to address a few state boating and safety laws so that everyone can enjoy the beautiful waters of the Townsend Flowage. There has been an increased rate of slow-no wake violations and property owner complaints. This has led to the creation of a partnership between the Oconto County Sheriff's Department, DNR, Town of Townsend, the Oconto County Lakes and Waterway Association and the Townsend Flowage Protection District to address these concerns.

There will be a two phase (two year) approach to reduce violations and increase compliance. The following actions will be taken during the 2022 boating season:

- 1) Large **Slow No-Wake** signs will be placed at each of the boat landings that includes a map of the Townsend Flowage detailing the slow-no wake areas
- 2) Additional **Slow No-Wake** signage will be placed along property owners land reminding boaters that it is a designated area.
- 3) Increased monitoring and enforcement will be conducted during the 2022 boating season in coordination between the Oconto County Sheriff Department and DNR Wardens.
- 4) This notice and a mid-season informational update will be sent to all property owners.

The results of the monitoring and enforcement data will be analyzed and future modifications may be implemented in 2023.

Townsend Ordinance No. 1-97 prohibits motor boats or personal water crafts, (jet skis), from operating in excess of slow no-wake at any time before 10:00 in the forenoon and after 5:00 in the afternoon of each day.

**Please review the Speed Restrictions laws on the back side of this letter and the map detailing the three areas (McCaslin Brook, bay by dam and channel under bridge between Hillcrest and Wendt's Sandbar) that are restricted at all times.**

Other boating rules:

- A life-jacket is required for every person on your boat.
- Jet-Ski Safety – A USCG approved life jacket must be worn and if the jet-ski is equipped with a lanyard-type engine cut off it must be attached to his or her person, clothing or PFD.
- Fire Extinguisher and throwable floatation device must be on each boat.

### 30.66 Speed restrictions.

- (1) SPEED TO BE REASONABLE AND PRUDENT. No person shall operate a motorboat at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard for the actual and potential hazards then existing. The speed of a motorboat shall be so controlled as to avoid colliding with any object lawfully in or on the water or with any person, boat or other conveyance in or on the water in compliance with legal requirements and exercising due care.
- (2) FIXED LIMITS. In addition to complying with sub. (1), no person may operate a motorboat at a speed in excess of the posted notice as established by regulatory markers.
- (3) PROHIBITED OPERATION.
  - (a) No person may operate a motorboat within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake.
  - (ag)
    1. Except as provided in subd. 2., no person may operate a motorboat, other than a personal watercraft, at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of the shoreline of any lake.
    2. In its ordinances enacted under s. 30.77, a city, village, town, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, or a town sanitary district may provide an exemption from the prohibition in subd. 1. or may substitute a lesser number of feet.
    3. This paragraph does not affect any of the following:
      - a. The authority of a local governmental unit specified in subd. 2. to enact more restrictive ordinances under s. 30.77.
      - b. The authority of the Dane County board to enact more restrictive ordinances under s. 33.455 (3).
  - (ar) No person may operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake.
  - (b) No person may operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of any other boat.
  - (c) Paragraphs (a) to (b) do not apply to pickup or drop areas that are marked with regulatory markers and that are open to operators of personal watercraft and to persons and motorboats engaged in water skiing or similar activity.

**History:** 1973 c. 302; 1981 c. 303; 1991 a. 257; 1997 a. 198; 2009 a. 31.

**Cross-reference:** See also s. NR 5.001, Wis. adm. code.