

October 6, 2025

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
SCOPE OF WAKE BOAT & WAKESURF STUDY**

Wakesurfing is a recreational activity that has increased in popularity nationally as well as in the state of Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP, or the Department) recently received submissions of municipal boating ordinances that impact wakesurfing and wake boat use, and as a result, the Department also received significant outreach on the topic, demonstrating the regulation of wakesurfing is an issue of growing significance to many residents and businesses in Connecticut and one that merits additional study.

DEEP is preparing an informational study on the operation of wake boats and the activity of wakesurfing in the state (Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study). Recognizing that conditions differ across water bodies, the findings of this report may be informative to communities considering future ordinances on wakesurfing and could help inform state-level policy, if desired by the Connecticut General Assembly.

This “Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study” will (1) assess the economic, environmental, recreational, navigational, and public health and safety factors relevant to wake boat operation on Connecticut’s waterbodies; (2) provide information to state and local waterway managers about key issues and opportunities for balanced, site-specific approaches to accommodating or addressing wakesurfing; and (3) provide recommendations for consideration by policymakers at the state and local level.

DEEP invites the public to provide written comments regarding the scope of the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study and the prompts outlined below. The comments will help inform the focus areas and key issues for review, conclusions, and recommendations included in the report. DEEP also will seek public comments on a draft of the study, which will be released later this year per the schedule detailed below.

Written comments should be submitted to DEEP via DEEP.Boating@ct.gov with “Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study” in the subject line and must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **October 22, 2025**. All materials submitted by stakeholders will be posted on the DEEP website. Any questions may be directed via e-mail to DEEP.Boating@ct.gov.

As the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study will consider a number of factors, please consider the following prompts as you prepare your comments:

1. Factors related to public access
2. Approaches other states or municipalities have taken to manage or regulate wake boat operation and wakesurfing
3. Recreational factors (wakesurfing as a recreational activity, and compatibility with/impacts to other recreational activities such as fishing, rowing, water skiing, tubing, swimming, other on-water uses)
4. Environmental factors (e.g., fish, wildlife, water quality, habitat, impacts to shoreline or lakebed, sediment suspension, vegetation, aquatic invasive species, etc.)
5. Navigation or safety factors to a variety of boating activities (e.g., power boating, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding rowing, personal watercraft operation, pontoon cruising, etc.)
6. Economics and tourism
7. Existing studies, reports, or research that DEEP should consider
8. Enforcement

DEEP intends to adhere to the following schedule for the Wake Boat & Wakesurf Study:

Date	Task
October 22, 2025	Written comments due
December 15, 2025	Draft report published
January 9, 2026	Written comments on draft report due
February 2, 2026	Final report due

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