

BE WAKE WISE

CONCERNS

Wake surfing and wake boarding have increased substantially in recent years. While the challenges and excitement of these sports are undeniable, they do require large wakes which can have side effects on Watchic Lake.

SIDE EFFECTS

Large wakes can damage docks, moored boats, loon nests and limit enjoyment of small watercraft like paddleboards, canoes and kayaks. Large wakes also erode the shoreline and stir up bottom sediment which often has a high phosphorous content. Phosphorous can cause algae blooms. Sediment can close fish gills and suffocate fish eggs.

CAUSES

While large wakes are often associated with high speed boating, you may be surprised that slow-speed boating (6 to 12 mph) creates the largest wakes. Off plane, a boat's bow angles up and the propeller angles down which creates large wakes and stirs up bottom sediment in shallow water. This is known as "plowing the water" as shown below.

Water Surface



Prop Wash Cone

Lake Bottom

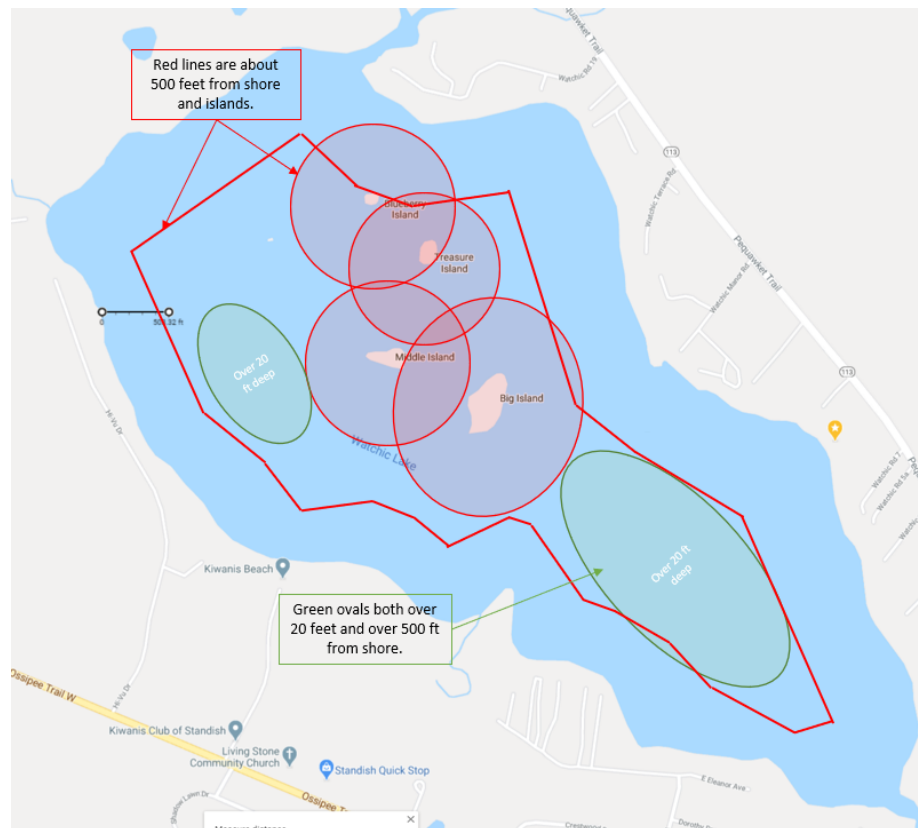


With thanks to Kezar Lake Watershed Association for this information

PROTECT WATER QUALITY. BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER BOATERS. RESPECT AQUATIC HABITAT AND WILDLIFE.

HOW TO HELP

- Find large water areas where wakes will diminish before reaching shore and where propeller wash won't scour the bottom
- Operate your boat at least 500 feet from shore.
- Operate in water more than 20 feet deep.
- Avoid small bays, channels and enclosed areas, especially during high water periods.
- Avoid marshy areas where fish and loon habitat is likely to exist.
- Leave and approach shore in a straight line. Turning makes large wakes.
- Operate at least 500 feet from small watercraft.



Watchic Lake Standish, Maine

