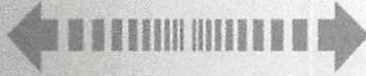
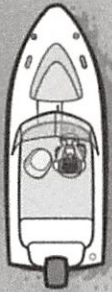
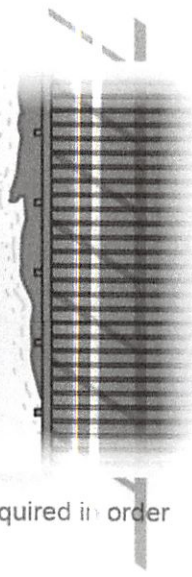


NO WAKE



**NO WAKE
ZONE**



"No wake" is defined as "The slowest possible speed required in order to maintain steerage and headway."

In Washington, it is unlawful to operate at greater than 'no wake' speed when around gas docks, marinas, boat ramps, and people in the water even if not marked by a regulatory marker.

You may be held responsible for damage caused by vessel wake or wash resulting from negligent or careless operation of a vessel.

UNSAFE PRACTICES



The following acts and maneuvers are considered dangerous & illegal while boating in Washington:

- It is illegal to operate a boat in a manner that endangers or would likely endanger a person or property and in willful disregard of others. The following are a few examples:
 - Endangering others or their property, by allowing the wake of your vessel to potentially harm another or their property.
 - Jumping the wake of a vessel unnecessarily close to another vessel. No person operating a personal watercraft shall cross or jump the wake of another vessel, when within sixty (60) feet of the vessel, in such a manner that more than half of the hull of the personal watercraft jumping the wake leaves the water.
 - Failing to conform to boating signage such as posted speeds, indicated restricted entry zones, diver down flags, etc. No person shall operate a boat at a speed in excess of a Slow-No-Wake in a posted no wake zone. No person may operate a vessel at speeds greater than are reasonable or prudent given the existing weather conditions, watercraft traffic or persons in the water.

- **Operating at an unsafe speed.** Boaters must always operate their vessel at a safe speed as well as adhering to any indicated speed limitations.
- **Failure to maintain adequate distance.** Boaters must maintain the designated 'slow-no-wake' speed in the circumstances discussed above as well as keeping their distance from water skiers or vessels towing someone on another device.
- **Exceeding maximum capacity.** The recommended capacity indicated on the boats' capacity plate should not be exceeded. Operation of a vessel loaded or powered in excess of the maximum capacity affects the stability of the vessel and makes the chance of a capsizing or fall overboard more likely.
- **Not maintaining a lookout.** All operators are required to keep a constant lookout for other vessels, hazards and/or people in the water.
- **Not maintaining proper seating aboard your vessel.** In Washington, it is unlawful to allow any person to ride or sit on the bow, gunwale, transom, or on the decking over the bow of the vessel while underway unless such a vessel is provided with adequate guards or railing to prevent passengers from falling overboard. Passengers or other persons aboard a vessel may occupy these areas of the vessel to moor or anchor the vessel, to cast off, or for any other necessary purpose.
- **Dangerous operation.** Boaters must make sure that the vessel is being operated in such a manner that its occupants or others sharing the water are not in any danger. If an officer observes that someone's safety may be endangered, the operator may be forced to head to the closest moorage. Examples of such operation could be: operating without all the required equipment, operating the vessel with more power than recommended, operating the vessel with a fuel leak, or operating at night without lights.

- **Obstructing navigation.** Boaters may not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in a channel without leaving adequate room for boat passage.

LAWS ON NEGLIGENT AND RECKLESS OPERATION

Negligent Operation - A person shall not operate a vessel in a negligent manner. Negligent operation of a vessel is inadvertent operation that endangers another person or property, but is not intentional.

- Examples are operating a vessel in disregard of careful and prudent operation and rates of speed such as in a "no wake" or "no boats" zone, or other operation that disregards the existing conditions at the time, such as other traffic, freedom from obstruction to the view ahead, restrictions to the body of water, or the effects of boat wake.

Reckless Operation - It is also unlawful for any person to operate a vessel in a reckless manner. Reckless operation of a vessel is deliberate behavior that puts a person or property at risk.

- Examples would be repeated operation of a dangerous act such as cutting closely near another person or boat or deliberately ignoring a marked speed zone.

Speed limits and zoned or restricted areas are determined by local ordinance. Become familiar with your local ordinances by talking with your sheriff's office marine patrol or with your local police department marine patrol. Examples are no wake zones, danger zones, and speed limit zones.