



**National Association of State Boating Law Administrators  
Policy Position on Wake Boats**

**Date: September 28, 2021**

**Committee: Executive Board**

**Background**

Amid growing calls for information from state legislative research agencies and individual state legislators, the Executive Board formed an ad-hoc group of state and industry representatives to define a wake boat. The ad hoc committee recognized the following definition cannot predict future hull designs or implications associated with the spread of aquatic invasive species. Based on the ad hoc committee's recommendations, the Executive Board adopted an interim policy position in support of the states on the definition of wake boats.

**National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy**

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators offers the following definition for anyone seeking such:

Wake Boat: (also known as wake surf boat, ballasted boat) is defined as any boat that is equipped with ballast tanks, ballast bags, compartments, containers, or similar devices or mechanical systems designed to alter or enhance the characteristics of the boat's wake. This definition may only be applicable when such devices are being utilized to alter the wake.

**Policy References**

NASBLA Model Act on Safe Practices for Boat-Towed Watersports

**Policy Letters**

None associated with this issue.