

April 2011

Capacity Assessment Criteria

Northern Sector of Rideau Canal

Hydrographic Chart – Boat Wake (Wash): If you operate your vessel near other boats, in a narrow channel or busy congested area, keep your boat wake to a minimum.

Transport Canada – Narrow/Congested Channel: buffer zones and transition zones are not well understood and do not lend themselves to scientific formula. Each sites specific feature must be taken into account.

Water Ski & Wakeboard Canada: Public Etiquette: always try to ski or ride in a line or set up a slalom course or obstacles in an area of the lake where there are no houses and as little boat traffic as possible.

Boater survey indicated majority of boaters feel there should be a speed limit in the entire river area.

Valid Historic Canals Regulation prohibits tow sports in the navigation channel.

Risk Assessment states there is compelling evidence supporting the opinion that wakeboarding is an inappropriate activity for the entire study area.

To bring some compromise to the entire area being restricted, the following criteria were used to narrow down areas of potentially higher risk: narrow channel and/or congestion in review area:

- More than 20 shoreline residents per km
- More than 10 docks per km
- Areas of minimum width less than 90 meters
- Average width 100 meters or less
- Maximum width less than 150 meters
- Volume and type of recreational activity (are they conflicting)
- Additional Concerns

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT (CONGESTION AND CHANNEL WIDTH)

Map #	No Wake Zone #	Houses per km	Docks per km	Min. Width meters	Max, Width meters	Avg. Width meters	Other Concerns
17-21	5 erosion n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	erosion
22	6	12	5	108	307	245	
23	6	15	6	122	184	153	
24		1	1	77	250	157	
25		7	3	53	275	186	
26	1 Long Island Lockstation 250 m	0	106m	50	100	75	Lockstation Mooring
Ecolands Basin		6	1	159	307	245	
28	2 Manotick br. To tip of island	23	14	79	132	100	Boat Launch Activity
29		16	15	118	183	145	
30	3 Collins Pt	25	13	76	127	99	Sharp Elbow
31	Kellys Landing	14	8	80	110	95	Restaurant, Fuel Station
32		15	5	91	189	140	
33		17	12	91	182	132	
34	Hurst marina	16	9	104	191	152	Marina
35	4 Sanders Is.			125	180	149	Marina

Zone 2 (Map 28) Zone 3 (Map 30) – The boat launch in Manotick is heavily used, especially on weekends, adding to the congestion in zone 2 & 3. As well, residents of zone 2 & 3 actively partake of the following activities within these narrow zones, combining extreme and sometimes conflicting boating behaviors:

- Swimming
- Fishing
- Kayaking/canoeing
- Tubing
- Wakeboarding/wake surfing
- Water skiing
- Cruising

Zone 3: This particular section also meets criteria for creation of a speed zone:

Rideau Canal operations consider speed zones for three very specific reasons.

1. Highly congested boat traffic areas
2. Narrow channels
3. Boater conflicts - as in merging channels or limited visibility.

Prepared by: Mary Ann Stienberg, Prevention Coordinator, Parks Canada