



SQL and The Decibel Coalition

What is SQL

BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.



Mission

Make the Muskoka Lakes Safer and Quieter to Ensure the Sustainable Enjoyment of a Treasured Shared Resource.

Important drivers of change:

Grass root conversations

Education

Positive



We are a Fact-based Organization

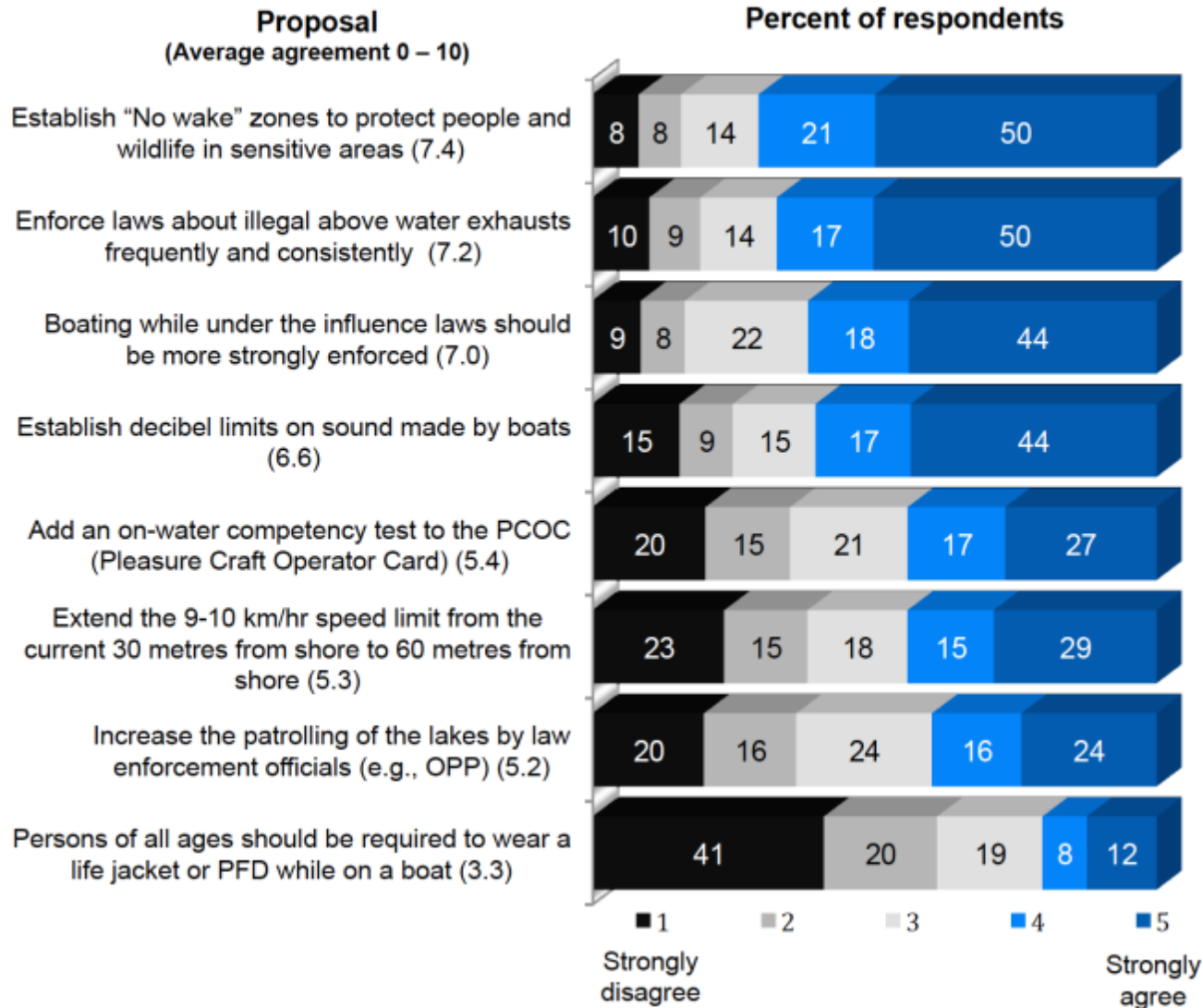
Results of 2 comprehensive surveys tell us:

- People are passionate about our lake environment
- Safety is a universal priority but only 31% rate their lake as “Very Safe”
 - Power boats not following “the rules of the road”
 - Boats travelling at high speeds
 - Large wakes that can endanger others
- 67% want muffler laws enforced
- 61% want decibel level legislation



Key Findings: Opportunities

Figure 32. To what extent do you agree with the following proposals intended to enhance the boating experience on your lake?



These Results Drive our Priorities

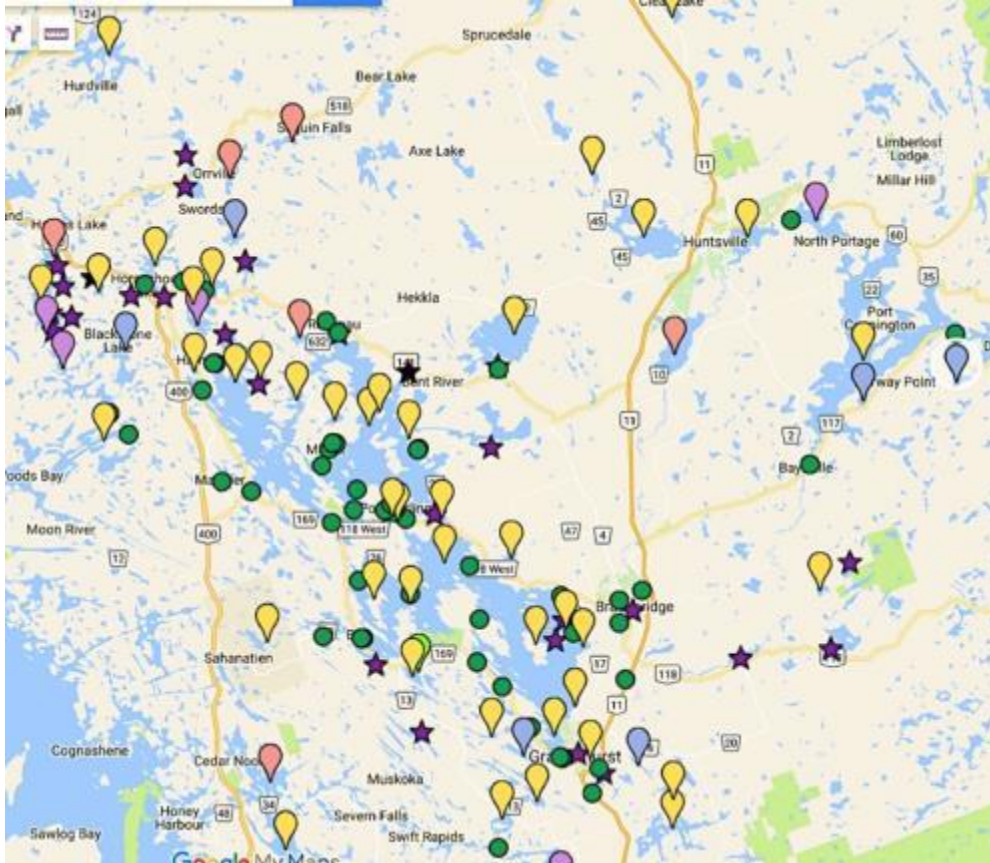
The Safe Quiet Lakes Action Plan:

- 1. Outreach & Education:** Promoting safe and responsible boating with our stakeholders: associations, marinas, municipalities. Share the Lakes Award. No wake zones- Mirror Lake Signs and Buoys project
- 2. Advocacy platform includes:** Decibel limit legislation, incident reporting, lake capacity evaluation tools.
- 3. Building Partnerships:** Partnering with organizations to ensure we reach our goals: boating organizations, OPP,

We are committed to working with the lake community to achieve positive change.



Growing Reach



2019 Summer Results:

- 125 Code Signs at marinas and public launches
- 6500 Boater's Code postcards distributed by OPP, marina and resorts.
- Presented at 12 AGM's & 4 events
- Digital presence: 2 Newsletters were sent to over 2000 contacts.

Information Post Cards



9 KM NO WAKE WITHIN 30 METRES FROM SHORE

Learn more about responsible boating and the impact of wakes at safequiet.ca

Boat Safely. Have fun.
Slow down and enjoy the scenery.

The Ontario Provincial Police patrol the lakes. To keep you, your fellow boaters and the environment safe, they enforce the speed limits and don't drink and drive. To your and everyone's safety, the OPP wants to keep boats out of the lakes from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM. For more information, call 911.


Please watch your wake
Even an slow speed you can create a large, damaging wake if you're too close. High out of the water, boats lose control from your wake.

When driving down the lake, never, double back to clear the way!
 • Stay on the lake to stay and your boat to avoid collisions in the regulated zone.
 • Stay on the lake to stay and your boat to avoid collisions in the regulated zone.

The speed limit within 90 metres (300 yards) of any shoreline and double back to clear the way!
 • To be proactive, watch your speed and water level, and reduce your speed.

9 KM NO WAKE
within 30 m of the shoreline


Find out more about Safe Boating at safequiet.ca



BOATER'S CODE
Responsible boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the limit of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of the boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on swimmers, ducks, stragglers and porpoise.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and anglers.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who boards in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and protect the lake.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not make equipment, time or space on the boat, or a resource that disturbs the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.

You're not alone on the water.
Learn about responsible boating, water recreation and speed impact at safequiet.ca

Is your boat too loud?
Find out more at safequiet.ca



Wakes and Speed Pilot Project



To test tactics to reduce wakes and speed on the Indian River and Mirror Lake.

- With TML, reinstalling 9 km/hr signs where applicable,
- installed no wake signage and buoys,
- educating the public about the speed and no wake restrictions,
- Worked with the OPP to enforce these restrictions.

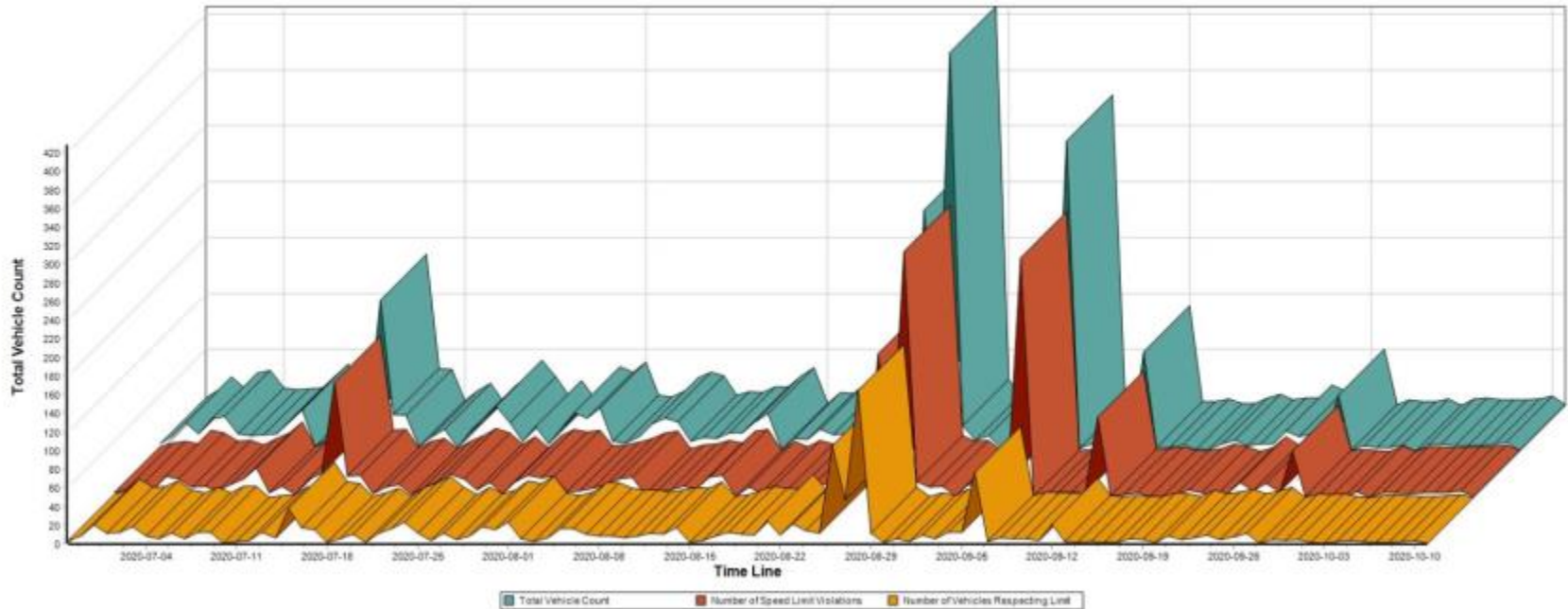
Positive outcomes will enable us to deploy these resources across Muskoka.



Wakes and Speed Pilot Project

Radar Sign Results

Custom Chart for Foreman's Narrows Oct 20 (from 2020-06-28 to 2020-10-12)



The Decibel Coalition

- The Problem
- Decibel Coalition
- Progress to date
- Muffler Information Card



The Problem

Excessive boat noise is a persistent and pervasive problem on Canadian waterways

- Bigger, faster more powerful racing boats are becoming common place on Canadian inland waterways
- Muskoka, Lake Simcoe, Big Rideau in Ontario, Okanagan and Shuswap in BC, Memphremagog in Quebec
- 67% want muffler laws enforced, 61% want decibel legislation (SQL 2017 survey of 3,300)
- How Much is Too Much? > 75 dB on shore causes disruption of conversation, shoreline residents become annoyed – take action
- Federal legislation requiring most boats to have mufflers is weak
 - Police will not enforce



The Decibel Coalition

What is it and What are its Objectives

- Safe Quiet Lakes - broad National Coalition
- Target Members - Police, cottage/lake associations, marinas, boat manufacturer associations, Boating Industry Association and Municipalities
- Goal Line - Lobby the Transport Canada
 - to enhance current legislation
 - include decibel limits
 - efficient, effective enforcement procedures



Progress to Date

- Support is strong and enthusiastic
- 12 Members todate
- National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)
- Next steps
 - Boating Associations
 - Municipalities
 - Fund Raising
 - Lobbyist



Progress to Date Cont'd

- Significant knowledge accumulation
 - US/EU legislation, science of sound & measurements, muffler systems and mitigation options
- History of Small Vessel Act
- Developed Logo
- Identified Ottawa based lobbyist
- Purchased professional grade SPL (dB) meter
- Performed decibel readings on high performance boats
- Developing communication and fundraising plan



Muffler Information Card

Noisy boats bothering you? The law is on your side.

FACT

By law, marine mufflers are required on all boats manufactured after January 1, 1960. (Small Vessel Regulations SOR/2010-91)

FACT

By law, boats with a exhaust diverter (aka Captain's Call, Silent Choice, Captain's Choice) must be visibly disconnected in a manner that ensures it cannot be easily reconnected while the vessel is in operation within five nautical miles from shore (that's anywhere on our lakes).

Excessive boat noise is the number one concern expressed in our cottager surveys and we mean to do something about it. Safe Quiet Lakes is working to strengthen legislation to include decibel limits that are easily enforced.

Your support can help.
Please visit safequiet.ca



Give your Neighbours the Silent Treatment.

If your boat is not legal, please see your marina, mechanic or dealer to have the Exhaust Diverter disconnected or a muffler installed.

How do I know if my boat is legal?

The vast majority of boats on our lakes comply with the law. These include all boats where the engine exhaust exits through the propeller including all outboards, most inboard/outboards, all personal watercraft and most wake-board boats that have the exhaust exiting below the waterline.

What can I do if my boat is not legal?

Having the Exhaust Diverter disconnected is usually a simple process that can be done by your mechanic for a nominal cost. Various muffler solutions are available in the market place for boats that currently do not have a muffler.

Costs start as low as a few hundred dollars. In the case of extreme high performance racing boats there may be no option.

Failure to comply with these regulations could result in a fine under the Canada Shipping Act 2001.

The OPP wants to hear from the community about dangerous or aggressive boating.

1-888-310-1122



Decibel Coalition

Summary

- We know what is needed
- We know how we are going to get there
- We have strong enthusiastic support
- We Will make our shared waterways more enjoyable for all!



Questions





Safe Quiet Lakes

Be Respectful. Share the Space.

To learn more or make a donation please visit

safequiet.ca