



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

KRIS WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENCY: Natural Resources

TITLE-SERIES: 58-26

RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: Special Boating Rules

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§20-1-7(31), 20-7-22 and 20-7-23

COMMENTS LIMITED TO:

Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 07/24/2025 03:00 PM

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Wendy Greene

ADDRESS: 112 California Avenue

Charleston, WV 25305

EMAIL: dnrcomments@wv.gov

PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

This rule provides regulations that govern the operation of motorboats and other vessels on particular waters of this State

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER CONTENTS OF CHANGES IN THE RULE AND A STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE RULE:

The changes to this rule include the addition of a definition for electric motors and removal of horsepower restrictions on six impoundments. This change provides regulatory relief for boaters on these impoundments. The definition is necessary to address technological advancement. Some new electric motors are too large and powerful for some impoundments and this clarifies the size that has always been permitted.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

There is no economic impact on revenues of state government anticipated.

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

There is no economic impact on special revenue accounts anticipated.

C. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

There is no economic impact on the state or its residents anticipated.

D. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2025 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2026 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	0	0	0
Personal Services	0	0	0
Current Expenses	0	0	0
Repairs and Alterations	0	0	0
Assets	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0	0	0

E. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

There is no economic impact anticipated.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Emily Rector -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

TITLE 58
LEGISLATIVE RULE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SERIES 26
SPECIAL BOATING RULES

§58-26-1. General.

1.1. Scope and Purpose. -- This rule provides interpretations and guidance concerning special rules that govern the operation of motorboats and other vessels on particular waters of this State.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§ 20-1-7(31), 20-7-22, and 20-7-23.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~May 16, 2025.~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~May 19, 2025.~~

1.5. Sunset Provision. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect on August 1, ~~2030~~ 2031.

§58-26-2. Definitions.

2.1. "Director" means the director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

2.2. "Electric motors" means any electric motor with a motor output of less than 70 pounds of thrust used to power a vessel.

~~2.2.~~ 2.3. "Government-Owned Reservoir" means any natural or artificial impoundment, lake, pond, or reservoir that is partially or wholly within the territorial limits of West Virginia and is owned or administered by the federal government or by the State or any political subdivision of the state.

~~2.3.~~ 2.4. "Special Rules" means rules to be observed in the operation or navigation of motorboats and other vessels upon, over, or through the waters of a particular government-owned reservoir which the director considers necessary for the public health or safety of persons or property on or in those waters, or for the preservation of useful aquatic life. Special rules supplement the provisions of W. Va. Code § 20-7-1 *et seq.*, and the general rules promulgated thereunder, as they relate to motorboats and other vessels by further limiting, restricting, or prohibiting the operation or navigation of the vessels on a particular government-owned reservoir.

~~2.4.~~ 2.5. All other terms have the meaning prescribed in W. Va. Code §20-7-11 *et seq.*

§58-26-3. Special Rules for Government-owned Lakes.

3.1. Vessels are permitted on the following government-owned lakes with the following restrictions

3.1.1. Airport Pond (Raleigh County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.2. Anawalt (McDowell County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.3. Anderson (Kanawha County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.4. Barboursville (Cabell County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.5. Bear Rock (Ohio County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.6. Beech Fork (Wayne County): Motorboats are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower and operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs. Boats having motors greater than 10 horsepower shall have the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailerable limit while operating on this lake. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.7. Berwind (McDowell County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.8. Big Ditch (Webster County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.9. Big Run (Marion County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.10. Bluestone (Summers County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones and speed limit zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.11. Boley (Fayette County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.12. Brandywine (Pendleton County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.13. Brushy Fork (Site 19) (Pendleton County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.14. Buffalo Fork (Pocahontas County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only

3.1.15. Burnsville (Braxton County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.16. Cacapon Recreational Lake (Morgan County): No motorboats permitted.

3.1.17. Cacapon Upper Reservoir (Morgan County): No motorboats permitted.

3.1.18. Cameron (Marshall County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.19. Camp Run (Pendleton County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.20. Castleman Run (Brooke and Ohio Counties): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.21. Cedar Creek (Gilmer County): Rental boats only.

3.1.22. Charles Fork (Roane County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.23. Cheat (Monongalia County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by the approved buoys or posted signs.

3.1.24. Chief Cornstalk (Mason County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.25. Chief Logan (Logan County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.26. Conaway Run (Tyler County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.27. Coonskin (Kanawha County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.28. Coopers Rock (Monongalia County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.29. Curtisville (Marion County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.30. Deegan (Harrison): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.31. Dents Run (Marion): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.32. Dixon (Monongalia County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.33. Doe Run Sub-Impoundment (Taylor County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.34. Dog Run (Harrison County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.35. Dunkard Fork (Marshall County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.36. East Lynn (Wayne County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.37. Edwards Run (Hampshire County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.38. Elk Fork (Jackson County): ~~Motorboats are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower and operators must observe no wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Boats having motors greater than 10 horsepower must have the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailerable limit while operating on this lake. Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats of greater than 10 horsepower may only operate in a manner where no wake is created.~~ Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats of greater than 10 horsepower may only operate in a manner where no wake is created.

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- 3.1.39. Elk Two Mile (Site 12) (Kanawha County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.40. Elk Two Mile (Site 13) (Kanawha County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.41. Elk Two Mile (Site 14) (Kanawha County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.42. Fairfax Pond (Monongalia County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.43. Fitzpatrick (Raleigh County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.44. Flat Run (Marion County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.45. Fort Ashby (Mineral County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.46. French Creek (Upshur County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.47. Frozencamp - Left Fork (Jackson County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.48. Frozencamp - Right Fork (Jackson County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.49. Handley (Pocahontas County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.50. Hawks Nest (Fayette County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.
- 3.1.51. Hinkle (Harrison): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.52. Horse Creek (Wyoming County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.53. Huey Run (Marion County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.54. Hurricane (Putnam County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.55. Indian Rocks (Nicholas County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.56. James P. Bailey (Mercer County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.57. Jennings Randolph (Mineral County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.
- 3.1.58. Jimmy Lewis (Mercer County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.59. Kanawha State Forest (Kanawha County): No vessels permitted.

- 3.1.60. Kee (Mercer County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.61. Kimsey Run (Hardy County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.62. Krodel (Mason County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.63. Larenim (Mineral County): No motorboats allowed.
- 3.1.64. Laurel (Mingo County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.65. Lick Creek (Wayne County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.66. Little Beaver (Raleigh County): Electric motors only.
- 3.1.67. Logan County Airport (Logan County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.68. Mason (Monongalia County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.69. McClintic Ponds (Mason County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.70. Middle Wheeling Creek (Ohio County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.71. Miletree (Roane County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.72. Mill Creek (Barbour County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.73. Millers Fork (Wayne County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.74. Moncove (Monroe County): Motorboats are limited to a maximum of five horsepower.
- 3.1.75. Mount Storm (Grant County): Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.
- 3.1.76. Mountain Valley Lake (Summers County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.77. Mountwood (Wood County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.78. Newburg Lake (Preston County): No vessels permitted.
- 3.1.79. New Creek (Dam Number 14) (Grant County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.
- 3.1.80. North Bend (Ritchie County): ~~Motorboats are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower and operators must observe no wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Boats having motors greater than 10 horsepower must have the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailerable limit while operating on this lake. Motorboat~~

operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats of greater than 10 horsepower may only operate in a manner where no wake is created.

3.1.81. North Bend Pond (Ritchie County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.82. O'Brien (Jackson County): ~~Motorboats are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower and operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Boats having motors greater than 10 horsepower must have the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailerable limit while operating on this lake.~~ Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats of greater than 10 horsepower may only operate in a manner where no wake is created.

3.1.83. Parker Hollow (Hardy County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.84. Pendleton (Tucker County): No motorboats permitted.

3.1.85. Pennsboro (Ritchie County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.86. Pettigrew (Kanawha County): No motorboats permitted.

3.1.87. Pipestem (Summers County): Electric motors only.

3.1.88. Plum Orchard (Fayette County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Only motorboats powered by electric motors are allowed within zones marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.89. Poorhouse Pond (Berkeley County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.90. R. D. Bailey (Mingo and Wyoming counties): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.91. Ridenour (Kanawha County): Rental boats only.

3.1.92. Rock Cliff (Hardy County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.93. Rockhouse (Logan County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.94. Rollins (Jackson County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.95. Saltlick #9 (Braxton County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.96. Seneca (Pocahontas County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.97. Sherwood (Greenbrier County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.98. Silcott Fork (Roane County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.99. Sleepy Creek (Berkeley County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.100. South Mill Creek (Grant County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.101. Spruce Knob (Randolph County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.102. Stephens (Raleigh County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director.

3.1.103. Stonecoal (Lewis and Upshur counties): ~~Motorboats are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower and operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Boats having motors greater than ten 10 horsepower must have the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailerable limit while operating on this lake.~~ Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats of greater than 10 horsepower may only operate in a manner where no wake is created.

3.1.104. Stonewall Jackson (Lewis County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.105. Summersville (Nicholas County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.106. Summit (Greenbrier County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.107. Sutton (Braxton County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.108. Teter Creek (Barbour County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.109. Thomas Park (Tucker County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.110. Tomlinson Run (Hancock County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.111. Tracy (Ritchie County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.112. Trout (Hardy County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.113. Tuckahoe (Greenbrier County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.114. Turkey Run (Jackson County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.115. Turkey Run (Marshall County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.116. Tygart (Taylor County): Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats and other vessels may not enter restricted areas marked by buoys or posted signs.

3.1.117. Tygart River Backwaters (Town of Elkins) (Randolph County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.118. Underwood (Cabell County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.119. Upper Cove Run (Hardy County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.120. Upper Deckers (Preston County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.121. Upper Mud River (Lincoln County): ~~Motorboats are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower and operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Boats having motors greater than 10 horsepower must have the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailerable limit while operating on this lake.~~ Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats of greater than 10 horsepower may only operate in a manner where no wake is created.

3.1.122. Wallback (Clay and Roane counties): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.123. Warden (Hardy County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.124. Watoga (Pocahontas County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.125. Westover Park (Monongalia County): No vessels permitted.

3.1.126. Whetstone (Marion County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.127. Wolf Run (Marshall County): Motorboat use restricted to electric motors only.

3.1.128. Woodrum (Jackson County): ~~Motorboats are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower and operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Boats having motors greater than 10 horsepower must have the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailerable limit while operating on this lake.~~ Motorboat operators must observe no-wake zones marked by buoys or posted signs which are approved by the Director. Motorboats of greater than 10 horsepower may only operate in a manner where no wake is created.

3.2. The Division's law enforcement, emergency, and research vessels, when operating in an official capacity, are exempt from the provisions of this rule.

§58-26-4.

4.1. Any person convicted of a violation of this rule is subject to the penalties provided for in W. Va. Code §20-7-9.