

Boating season has opened again and there are several things to keep in mind while boating in 2010.

SLOW-NO-WAKE

Violations of the slow-no-wake buoys in the Fox River through downtown Oshkosh continues to be of concern for area boaters. There will be increased efforts for education and enforcement by the Sheriff's Office Boat Patrol throughout the summer.

There are new laws regarding slow-no-wake zones for 2010. The slow-no-wake zone on all lakes is now 100 ft from the shore. This pertains to all boats. You must operate at slow-no-wake speeds on any boat within 100 ft of any shoreline on any lake.

Remember: Slow-no-wake is defined as the minimum speed required to maintain steerage.

INVASIVE SPECIES

The continued spread of invasive species and the DNR's attempt to stop the spread of these species continues. Efforts for this year will be moving from education to the enforcement of laws related to invasive species.

There are several new regulations in regard to preventing the spread of invasive species. The following acts are illegal and may result in citations or fines:

- Failure to remove all aquatic plants or animals attached to any vehicle or to drain all water from boat trailers, equipment or gear immediately after leaving the water and before leaving a boat launch area or associated parking area.
- Launch a boat or trailer or any equipment with an aquatic plant or animal attached.
- Transport a boat or trailer on a public highway with an aquatic plant or animal attached.

Remember to empty your live wells, or bait tanks at the boat launch and drain any water that might be in your boat, including the bilge. Also, clean your boat and trailer of any weeds or vegetation when you pull the boat or trailer out of the water before getting on the highway.

For more information on the Wisconsin DNR's regulations on invasive species please visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/classification/prevent.htm>.

Please remember to check regulations from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources before each boating trip you take.