

# Shoreland zoning history

- The **Wisconsin Constitution**, adopted in 1848, says navigable waters are "common highways and forever free"
  - This led to "**The waters of WI belong to the people of WI**" which is the basis of the Public Trust Doctrine
  - State of WI has obligation to protect the **public's rights** in all navigable waters including boating, fishing, swimming & hunting
  - Shoreland zoning, adopted in 1966, protects **public rights** through its purposes
    - Preventing and controlling water pollution is needed for boating and swimming
    - Protecting spawning grounds is needed for good fishing
    - Maintaining shore cover is needed for fishing & hunting
- s. 281.31 Wisconsin Statutes

