



Fiscal Note for No-Wake Zone Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0324 Davidson County

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Fiscal Impact: State Government: No
Local Government: Minimal
Private Impact: Minimal
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15

The Wildlife Resources Commission is updating 15A NCAC 10F .0324 Davidson County to explicitly define all regulated no-wake zones on High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson County. The current rule text, see current (b)(1), limits vessels to no-wake speed around any marked public boat launching ramp, bridge, dock, marina, boat storage structure, boat service area or pier, but does not explicitly list the locations in the Rule, as we do in other Local Water Safety Regulations (Section .0300). The lack of specificity creates confusion within the regulated community. Additionally, the existing rule fails to specify who is responsible for the placement of markers delineating each no-wake zone. In practice, the Board of

Commissioners of Davidson County, Cube Hydro Carolinas, and the WRC have each taken responsibility for placement of markers implementing different aspects of the existing rule. The proposed amendments explicitly define which agency is responsible for each location.

Additionally, the no-wake zone on High Rock Shores Drive Cove, currently (b)(2), is proposed for repeal based on a recent no-wake zone investigation matrix completed by WRC law enforcement. In addition to a Public Safety Assessment and a Navigational Hazards Assessment, the investigation summarizes boating safety statistics related to the specified regulated area. The investigation found no boating accidents, no citations issued, and no verified complaints within the WRC database. Law Enforcement concluded the current no-wake zone is unnecessary as vessel traffic is light and consists primarily of the 16 residences in the cove. The buoys in the cove were privately placed and removing this no-wake zone will have no impact on State or local government.

Lastly, the no-wake zone at Skip Jack Harbor Marina will be expanded to include the Raven Point Boy Scout Camp to mitigate hazards to boater and water recreation safety.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments are expected to have no State impact. The WRC was already responsible for the placement of markers listed in proposed amendment (d)(3). The proposed amendments will have no impact on law enforcement operations. The WRC will assist with the removal of buoys from High Rock Shores Drive Cove and with the movement of buoys around Raven Point Boy Scout Camp. These activities will be part of normal Land and Water Access operations.

Local Impact

The Board of Commissioners of Davidson County is now explicitly listed as the designated agency for the placement of markers described in proposed amendment (d)(1). They purchased the markers currently in the water for these locations. As the designated agency, they may incur future costs related to the replacement of missing or dislocated markers. The cost for one no-wake buoy is currently about \$300.

It is the WRC's understanding that the Board of Commissioners of Davidson County will delegate the purchase of additional buoys to private entities for the expanded no-wake zone around Skip Jack Marina. The WRC will assist the Board of Commissioners with the movement of existing buoys and placement of new buoys at Skip Jack Harbor Marina such that they include the expanded area around Raven Point Boy Scout Camp.

Private Impact

In the proposed rule, Cube Hydro Carolinas is listed as the designated agency for the placement of markers described in proposed amendment (d)(3). They purchased the markers currently in the water for these locations. Through an agreement with the WRC, Cube Hydro pays an annual stipend for the purchase and placement (including replacement) of buoys described in (d)(3).

Overall, these proposed amendments are expected to have minimal impact on private individuals. For most areas, these no-wake restrictions are already in effect. As such, the proposed changes will primarily improve clarity and understanding of the rules, rather than significantly alter current boating behavior. The only notable exception is the larger no-wake area around Raven Point Boy Scout Camp, where expanded boundaries may result in some minor adjustment for boaters. Additionally, the removal of no-wake zone restrictions at High Rock Shores Drive Cove is anticipated to have minimal, if any, impact, as the cove is primarily utilized by a small number of private residences and no complaints have been received about boating speed in this area.

While boaters will be required to reduce speeds in the designated no-wake areas as outlined in the Rule, explicitly listing these zones should help alleviate confusion among vessel operators. Adherence to speed reductions is expected to enhance boating safety and reduce the likelihood of vessel damage or collisions with other water recreationists. Given the popularity of boating and recreation in these areas, these benefits are likely to be realized; however, these benefits could not be quantified.

1 **15A NCAC 10F .0324 DAVIDSON COUNTY**

2 ~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to those portions of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake~~
3 ~~that lie within the boundaries of Davidson County.~~

4 ~~(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed:~~

5 ~~(1) within 50 yards of any marked public boat launching ramp, bridge, dock, marina, boat storage~~
6 ~~structure, boat service area or pier while on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and~~
7 ~~Badin Lake in Davidson County;~~

8 ~~(2) High Rock Shores Drive Cove on High Rock Lake in Hi Roe Shores Subdivision in Silver Hill~~
9 ~~Township, shore to shore northeast of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.67720 N, 80.24526~~
10 ~~W to a point on the west shore at 35.67663 N, 80.24437 W;~~

11 ~~(3) Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake shore to shore, from a point 50 yards north of the docks at~~
12 ~~Camp Walter Johnson at 35.67130 N, 80.16592 W to a point 100 yards south of the docks at~~
13 ~~35.66993 N, 80.16582 W;~~

14 ~~(4) the cove in Oakwood Acres on Abbotts Creek Cove on High Rock Lake shore to shore, west of a~~
15 ~~line from a point on the south shore at 35.64704 N, 80.24787 W to a point on the north shore at~~
16 ~~35.64809 N, 80.24870 W; and~~

17 ~~(5) Beaverdam Creek Cove on Badin Lake, shore to shore north of a line from a point on the east shore~~
18 ~~at 35.50714 N, 80.09994 W to a point on the west shore at 35.50715 N, 80.10086 W.~~

19 ~~(c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed while within a~~
20 ~~marked mooring area on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson County.~~

21 ~~(d) Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any~~
22 ~~marked public swimming area on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson~~
23 ~~County.~~

24 ~~(e) Placement of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Davidson County shall be the designated agency for~~
25 ~~placement of the markers implementing this Rule.~~

26 (a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters in Davidson County.

27 (1) High Rock Lake:

28 (A) the waters of the cove shore to shore in Abbotts Creek between North Shore Drive and
29 South Shore Drive, east of a point at 35.64752 N, 80.24875 W;

30 (B) the waters shore to shore from a point 50 yards north of the docks at Camp Walter Johnson
31 at 35.67130 N, 80.16592 W to a point 100 yards south of the docks at 35.66993 N,
32 80.16582 W, on Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake;

33 (C) the waters within 50 yards of the High Rock Boat Dock Marina pier north of Abbotts Creek
34 Cove on High Rock Lake in Lexington, at 35.64992 N, 80.24802 W;

35 (D) the waters shore to shore in the cove at Skip Jack Harbor Marina and the Raven Point Boy
36 Scout Camp dock, from a line at a point 50 yards south of the Raven Point Boy Scout Camp
37 dock on the east shore of the cove at 35.63722 N, 80.27054 W, to a point on the west shore

of the cove at 35.63788 N, 80.27212 W, northward ending 50 yards north of the Skipjack Harbor Marina dock at a line from a point on the east shore at 35.64070 N, 80.26864 W to a point on the west shore at 35.64064 N, 80.27050 W;

(E) the waters within 50 yards of the High Rock Marina and Campground and fuel dock in Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point on the southwest shore at 35.68274 N, 80.25228 W, around the peninsula to a point on the north shore at 35.68439 N, 80.25052 W;

(F) the waters 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the N.C. Highway 8 Bridge on Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point northeast of the bridge at 35.64564 N, 80.18493 W to a point southwest of the bridge at 35.64488 N, 80.18559 W;

(G) the waters 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the railroad trestle over Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point east of the trestle at 35.61161 N, 80.23434 W, to a point west of the trestle at 35.61151 N, 80.23535 W;

(H) the waters shore to shore 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the SR 1396 bridge, otherwise known as the Linwood-Southmont Road Bridge on Swearing Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point northeast of the bridge at 35.69185 N, 80.30139 W to a point southwest of the bridge at 35.69135 N, 80.30218 W.

(I) the waters within 50 yards northwest and 50 yards southeast of SR 2294 bridge otherwise known as the Holloway Church Road Bridge on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point east of the bridge at 35.67612 N, 80.25005 W, to a point west of the bridge at 35.67663 N, 80.25097 W;

(J) the waters within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the N.C. Highway 8 bridge and railroad trestle on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point southeast of the railroad trestle at 35.64235 N, 80.25508 W, to a point northeast of the bridge at 35.64292 N, 80.25396 W;

(K) the waters 50 yards north and 50 yards south of the N.C. Highway 47 bridge on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point north of the bridge at 35.74835 N, 80.24164 W, to a point south of the bridge at 35.74759 N, 80.24163 W;

(L) the waters within 50 yards of the dock and ramp at the Southmont Boat Ramp on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake at Wildlife Recreation Area Access Road, at 35.64694 N, 80.25990 W;

(M) the waters within 50 yards of the dock and ramp at Buddle Creek Swim Area Boat Ramp on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, on Holloway Church Road, at 35.68212 N, 80.22924 W;

(N) the waters within 50 yards of the dock and ramp at the Pebble Beach Boat Ramp on Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake off N.C. Highway 8, south of the N.C. Highway 8 Bridge, at 35.64356 N, 80.18570 W;

1 (2) Badin Lake:

2 (A) the waters of Beaverdam Creek Cove on Badin Lake shore to shore, north of a point at
3 35.50710 N, 80.10036 W in New London; and

4 (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Circle Drive Boating Access Area on Badin Lake, at 724
5 Shoreline Drive, New London.

6 (3) Tuckertown Reservoir. The waters 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the railroad trestle at Ellis
7 Creek on Tuckertown Reservoir, from a point east of the trestle at 35.52983 N, 80.18650 W, to a
8 point west of the trestle at 35.52966 N, 80.18749 W; and

9 (4) Yadkin River:

10 (A) the waters 50 yards north and 50 yards south of the N.C. Highway 29/70 bridge, otherwise
11 known as the Wil-Cox Bridge, and the railroad trestle near Yadkin River Park on the
12 Yadkin River in Linwood, from a point north of the bridge at 35.72328 N, 80.391137 W,
13 to a point south of the railroad trestle at 35.72263 N, 80.39137 W; and

14 (B) the waters within 50 yards of the York Hill Yadkin River (YRST) boat ramp on the Yadkin
15 River at 35.72398 N, 80.39116 W, west of SR 1147 in Linwood.

16 (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while on the waters of the regulated
17 areas designated in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

18 (c) Swimming Areas:

19 (1) Buddle Creek Swimming Area. No person operating a vessel shall permit it to enter the Swimming
20 Area at the Buddle Creek Swim Area at Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake in Lexington, east of the
21 ropes from a point at 35.68124 N, 80.22895 W; and

22 (2) Pebble Beach Swimming Area. No person operating a vessel shall permit it to enter the Swimming
23 Area at the Pebble Beach Swim Area at Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake in Denton, west of
24 the ropes from a point at 35.64403 N, 80.18557 W to the shore at the N.C. Highway 8 bridge.

25 (d) Placement of Markers.

26 (1) the Board of Commissioners of Davidson County shall be the designated agency implementing Parts
27 (a)(1)(A) through (E), (a)(2)(A), and (a)(4)(A) and (B) of this Rule;

28 (2) Cube Hydro Carolinas shall be the designated agency implementing Parts (a)(1)(L) through (N);
29 and Subparagraph (c)(1) and (2) of this Rule; and

30 (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency implementing
31 Parts (a)(1)(F) through (K), (a)(2)(B); and (a)(3) of this Rule.

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33 History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

34 Eff. July 1, 1976;

35 Amended Eff. January 1, 2012; May 1, 2004; December 1, 1995; December 1, 1991; August 1,
36 1991; September 1, 1982;

37 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December
38 6, 2016;

1 *Amended Eff. October 1, 2018.*
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