



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

From the Monroe County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit

Rochester, NY (May 29, 2019) — The Monroe County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit reminds the boating public that a State of Emergency has been declared by Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo for areas along the Lake Ontario shoreline and that the emergency executive order has reduced the boating speed to 5 MPH **and** no wake in Irondequoit Bay, Braddock Bay, Cranberry Pond, Long Pond, Buck Pond and the Genesee River. The 5 MPH/no wake means that each motor powered vessel on the water can only travel at a speed which does not create a wake. This means if a boat can only go 3 mph before creating a wake, then that vessel cannot travel in excess of that speed. If a vessel is encountered traveling within the restricted waterways creating a wake or exceeding the 5 MPH speed limit, a ticket for violation of the Navigation Law of the State of New York will be issued.

On May 20, 2019, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a State of Emergency that is still in effect for the counties in New York State effected by flooding. The executive order reduced the boating speed limit along the shore of Lake Ontario to 5 MPH and prohibited any boat wake within 1,000 feet of any shoreline. This distance is equivalent to 3 and 1/3 football fields, and on many lakes and ponds, there is no point where a boater would be more than 1,000 feet from the shoreline.

A wake is the naturally occurring wave patterns that come from a moving vessel; the faster a vessel moves, the more wake is produced, and higher wave action follows. Waves are a significant cause of water damage to property and homes, and they are a very real source of concern for homeowners, residents and businesses along the shorelines.



The boating community is a wonderful part of our county, and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office asks that boaters be respectful of each other and our residents along the shores. We want everyone to have a safe and fun boating season, while simultaneously recognizing that the high water levels have very real consequences.

About the MCSO Marine Unit:

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit is responsible for the safety and welfare of boaters, citizens and property along the shores of and within the waterways of Monroe County. Sheriff's Deputies continue to educate the public about the current high and rising water levels, and how these water levels affects boaters, citizens and property owners. Our public education also includes the recent changes in local and state laws which were enacted as a result of these high and rising water levels.

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