



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MARINE UNIT CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO ENSURE A SAFE BOATING SEASON AMID LAKE ONTARIO HIGH WATER LEVELS

Rochester, NY (June 5, 2019) — The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is again reminding boaters that on May 14, 2019, Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo issued a State of Emergency due to the high water levels on Lake Ontario. The emergency order reduced the boating speed to 5MPH / no wake in Irondequoit Bay, Braddock Bay, Cranberry Pond, Long Pond, Buck Pond, the Genesee River and within 500 feet from shore on Lake Ontario. Governor Cuomo's order May 20, 2019 made the law 1,000 feet from shore on Lake Ontario.

From the time of the Monroe County Executive's declaration until present day, the MCSO Marine Unit has devoted just over 78 hours (170 man hours) on 4 vessels patrolling, and has achieved the following:

- Conducted 4 search and/or rescues
- Assisted people on 7 separate vessels
- Inspected 24 vessels on the water or at Marinas
- Instructed 3 Boater Safety courses
- Issued the following warnings and tickets:
 - ✓ 2 warnings for *Insufficient Wearable Personal Floatation Device's (PFD)/Life Jacket's* [a vessel is required to carry the appropriate amount and type (size) of PFD's for the number of persons on board]
 - ✓ 2 warnings for *Insufficient/No Type IV Throwable PFD*
 - ✓ 2 tickets issued for *Insufficient/No Type IV Throwable PFD*
 - ✓ 2 warnings issued for *No Sound Producing Device* (every vessel must have a horn, whistle or sound producing device)



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- ✓ 3 warnings for *No Visual Distress Signal* (flare, SOS flag, beacon)
- ✓ 1 ticket issued for *No Visual Distress Signal*
- ✓ 6 warnings issued for *Violation of Navigation Rules* (no lights after dark, failure to yield right of way, etc.)
- ✓ 17 warnings issued for *Reckless Operation or Speed*
- ✓ 3 tickets and 1 town code violation for *Reckless Operation or Speed*
- ✓ 2 tickets for a *Safety Certificate Infraction*
- ✓ 2 warnings issued for *Registration Violations*
- ✓ 1 arrest for *Boating While Intoxicated* (BWI)

The rising water levels is a real concern. The waves created by those who violate the no wake is a source of concern for homeowners, residents and businesses along the shorelines, and a significant cause of water damage to property and homes. For the safety and welfare of all, 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.

MCSO needs boaters to recognize the responsibility and understand the consequences that boating in high waters entails and asks that boaters respect our residents along the shoreline. We want all boaters to enjoy this boating season and be safe while doing so.

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