

April 21, 2022

Hello Members of the CCROA

Re: No Wake Zone Ordinance for 8 Channels on the Cisco Chain

The CCROA has been working diligently for nearly 3 years with the Watersmeet Township Board to establish a "No Wake Zone" ordinance for key channels between lakes on the Michigan side of the Chain. **Wednesday, May 18th at 5:30pm** an open meeting at the Township Community Center will be held to discuss this issue.

The Board of the CCROA believes this is an important issue and encourages members of the CCROA to attend this meeting, no matter which side you may support. There will be a public announcement for this meeting and those who subscribe to Watersmeet News on the Township website will receive an email notice.

The CCROA supports a "No Wake Zone" Ordinance for the Chain's channels. See below for the 8 channels to receive this designation. You may be familiar with existing "No Wake" signs on the Chain. This ordinance would explicitly identify the channels receiving this designation and establish the enforcement mechanism. It WILL NOT affect travel on the open lakes of the channel. This mechanism mirrors existing Michigan laws regarding operation of watercraft (including regulations regarding wakes within 100 feet of shoreline, anchored rafts and boats etc... (see #1 on Safety below).

There are multiple reasons why the CCROA supports this ordinance:

1. Safety - slow speeds ensure safety when other watercraft are present.
2. Shorelines - wakes impact shorelines, causing erosion. This also affects property values.
3. Lake bottoms - excess speed churns up the channel bottoms, especially in shallow water areas.
4. Wildlife protection/fish nursery - Loons and other wildlife nest in these channels, and they serve as nurseries for juvenile fish.

The eight channels identified are:

1. East Bay Lake into Indian Lake
2. The "Sand Cut" between West Bay and Morley
3. Morley Lake into Lindsley Lake
4. Lindsley Lake into Thousand Island Lake
5. Echo Bay Channel, located on the west side of Thousand Island Lake
6. Thousand Island Lake into Big Africa Lake
7. Big Africa Lake into Record Lake
8. Big Africa Lake into Little Africa Lake

I am aware of a petition circulated last summer saying that this proposed No Wake Zones ordinance would require a "speed limit of 4 mph" through the entire Cisco Chain. I regard this petition as misguided at best. The thrust of this petition is untrue and seems nonsensical. Designated "No Wake Zones" on channels between lakes exist on many chains and lakes. Let's be careful about what we claim. To be clear, this proposed ordinance will not impact travel on open water; such travel remains governed by existing Michigan laws.

To virtually attend you must sign up. You can send an email at least one week in advance to Zoe Coleman at: [moderator@watersmeet.us](mailto:moderator@watersmeet.us). Additionally, letters in support or opposition may be addressed to Julie Mathiesen, Township Clerk, at [townclerk@watersmeet.us](mailto:townclerk@watersmeet.us) or P.O. Box 306, Watersmeet, MI 49969.

The Cisco Chain is a great asset for the entire Watersmeet Township. We believe this No Wake Zone Ordinance will continue to protect these waters for the benefit of Watersmeet. So please show up in person or virtually and make your voice heard.

Best Regards,  
Eugene Clark  
President, CCROA