

May 6, 2024

James Joerke  
County Administrator  
Cook County  
411 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Dear Mr. Joerke,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has completed the review of the materials received from Cook County pertaining to Caribou Lake. The request included the following:

1. Prohibiting wake surfing in any area that meets one or more of the following:
  - a. Any area that is less than 500 feet from the shoreline or another watercraft.
  - b. Any area in which the water depth is less than 20 feet.
2. No person may operate a boat on Caribou Lake in an artificially bow-high manner, to increase or enhance the boat's wake.

Upon review, the DNR has approved your proposed ordinance (Attachment A).

Any changes to the ordinance would have to be submitted to remain valid. Please forward a copy of the final signed ordinance for our official files to CAPT Adam Block our State Boating Law Administrator. You can forward a copy to CAPT Block via email at [adam.block@state.mn.us](mailto:adam.block@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

Colonel Rodmen Smith  
Chief Conservation Officer/Division Director

Attachment A

cc: CAPT Adam Block, State Boating Law Administrator  
CAPT Scott Staples, DNR R2 Enforcement Manager  
LT Dan Thomasen, DNR R2, District 6 Supervisor  
Cook County Sheriff Pat Eliassen  
WSUM File

WATER SURFACE USE ORDINANCE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF COOK

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SURFACE USE OF CARIBOU LAKE.

Section 1: PURPOSE, INTENT AND APPLICATION: As authorized by Minnesota Statutes 86B.201, 86B.205, and 459.20, AND Minnesota Rules 6110.3000 - 6110.3800 as now in effect and as hereafter amended, this Ordinance is enacted for the purpose and with the intent to control and regulate the use of the waters of Caribou Lake, located in Lutsen Township, Cook County, Minnesota, said body of water being located entirely within the boundaries of Cook County, to promote its fullest use and enjoyment by the public in general and the citizens of Cook County in particular, to insure safety for persons and property in connection with the use of said waters; to harmonize and integrate the varying uses of said waters; and to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Cook County, Minnesota.

Section 2: DEFINITIONS: Terms used in this ordinance related to boating are defined in M.S. § 86B.005.

Section 3: WAKE SURFING: Wake surfing, defined as the untethered use of a surfboard behind a watercraft, is prohibited on Caribou Lake in any area that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) Any area that is less than 500 feet from the shoreline or another watercraft.
- (b) Any area in which the water depth is less than 20 feet.

Section 4: WAKE ENHANCEMENT: No person may operate a boat on Caribou Lake in an artificially bow-high manner, in order to increase or enhance the boat's wake. Such prohibited operation shall include wake enhancement by use of ballast, mechanical hydrofoils, uneven loading or operation at transition speed. Transition speed means the speed at which the boat is operating at greater than slow-no-wake speed, but not fast enough so that the boat is on plane. It shall not be a violation of this ordinance to operate a boat through the ordinary transition from no wake to up on plane and from on plane to no wake.

Section 5: ENFORCEMENT: The primary responsibility for enforcement of this ordinance shall rest with the Cook County Sheriff's Office. This, however, shall not preclude enforcement by other licensed peace officers.

Section 6: NOTIFICATION: It shall be the responsibility of Cook County, Minnesota, to provide for adequate notification of the public, which shall include placement of a sign at each public watercraft access outlining essential elements of the ordinance, as well as the placement of necessary buoys and signs.

Section 7: PENALTIES: Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$300.00 for a first offense. For second and subsequent offenses, any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$1000.00 and up to 90 days in jail.

Section 8: EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall be in effect from and after the date of its passage and publication.

Passed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2024.